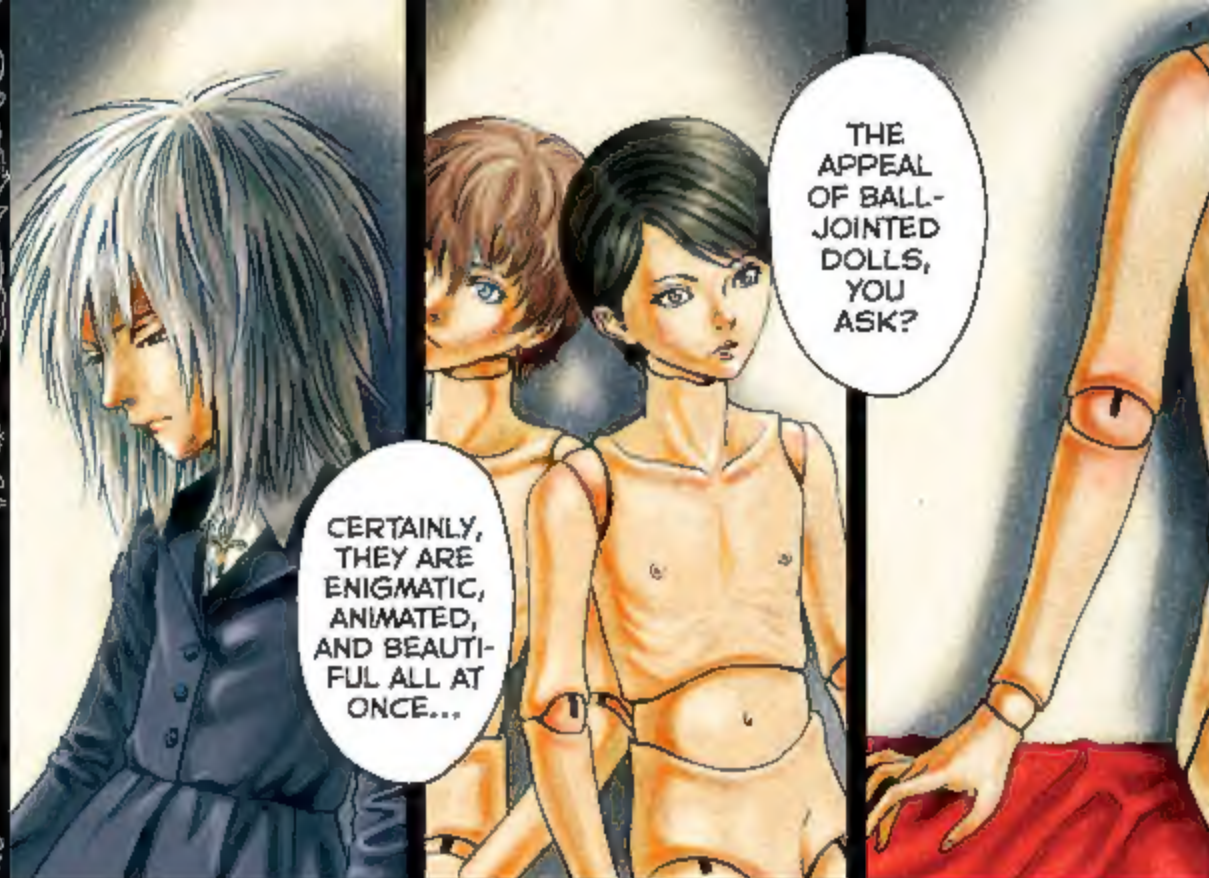




THE
APPEAL
OF BALL-
JOINTED
DOLLS,
YOU
ASK?

CERTAINLY,
THEY ARE
ENIGMATIC,
ANIMATED,
AND BEAUTI-
FUL ALL AT
ONCE...



TO ME
THEY ARE
GENUINE
LIVING,
BREATHING
CHILDREN.

HOWEVER,
IF YOU WISH
TO KNOW MY
PERSONAL
OPINION,
I DON'T VIEW
THESE BOYS
AS DOLLS
TO BEGIN
WITH.

アサナギムナシム

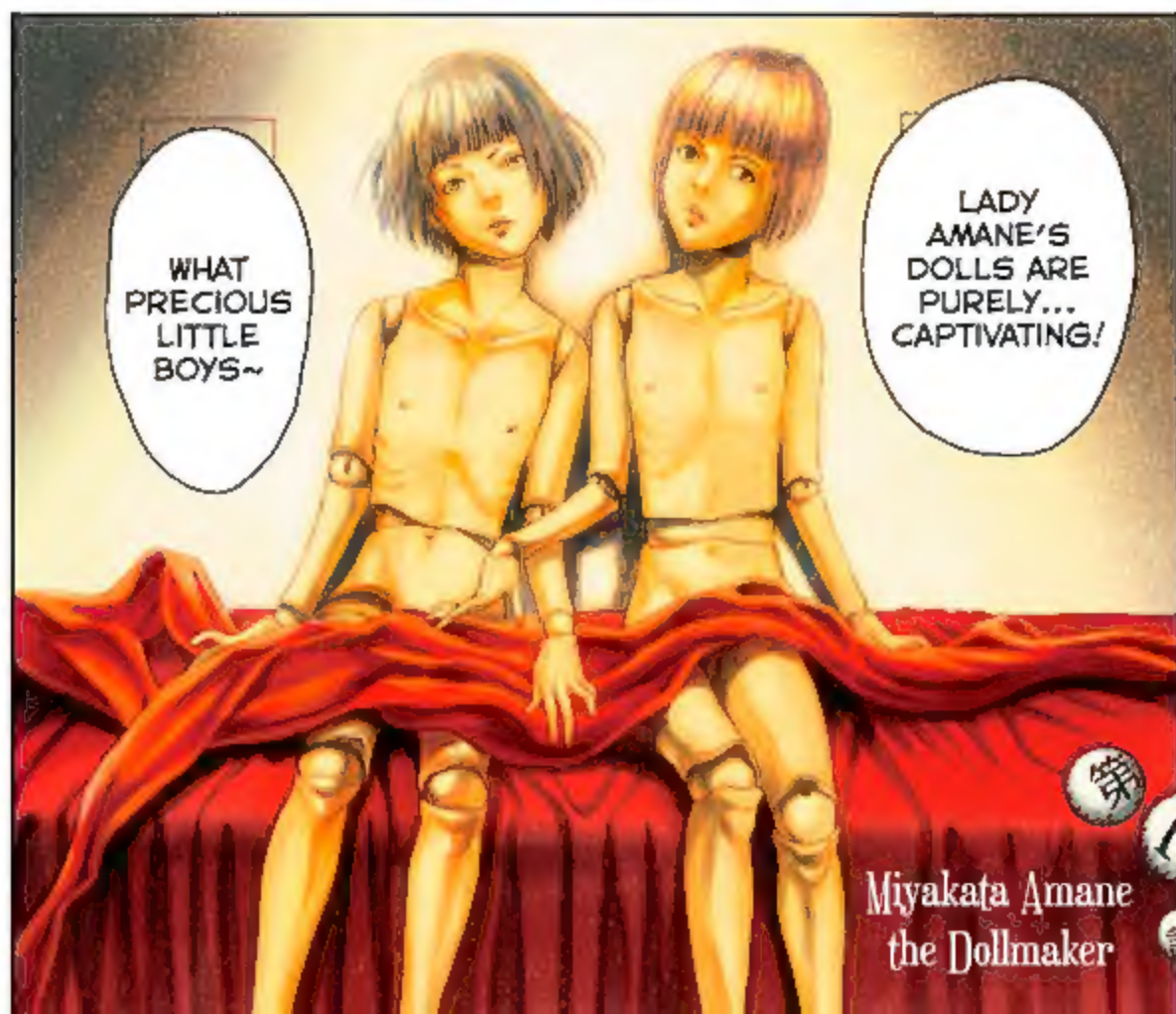
The wicked genius Furuya Usamaru unveils his Morning Two debut!!





The month of May,
Ginza district.

POSTER: YOUTHS IMPRISONED



WHAT
PRECIOUS
LITTLE
BOYS~

LADY
AMANE'S
DOLLS ARE
PURELY...
CAPTIVATING!

Miyakata Amane
the Dollmaker

第1巻

1

全巻

THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR
KINDNESS.

Miyakata Amane

PLEASE
LET ME
SEE YOUR
DOLLS UP
CLOSE~

I
ADMIRE
YOU
SO~
MUCH!

GOOD-
NESS,
YOU'RE SO
CAPTIVATING
YOURSELF,
LADY
AMANE.

I
SIMPLY
CANNOT
WAIT FOR
THE NEXT
EXHI-
BITION!!

PLEASE
LOOK
FORWARD
TO MY
WORK.

grin

I'LL
TAKE THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO ANNOUNCE
MY PARTICI-
PATION FOR
THE DOLL
EXHIBIT IN
THREE
MONTHS.



A SPRINGTIME LIVE-ACTION SILVER SCREEN SPECTACLE... "TEICHI NO KUNI" WITH SUDA MASAKI LEADING THE CAST HITS THEATRES APRIL 29.
ALL 14 VOLUMES OF THE POPULAR MANGA SERIES ON SALE NOW!!! (ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY SHUEISHA)







A DESPERATE, EXTRAORDINARY COMING-OF-AGE STRUGGLE TO FIND SOMETHING TRULY ORDINARY...
 "WHERE THE BOYS ARE" BY FURUYA USAMARU IS CURRENTLY ENJOYING GREAT ACCLAIM IN ITS SERIALIZATION
 (CURRENTLY RUNNING IN SHINCHOSHA'S GOGO BUNCH)



ALWAYS
THE SAME
NIGHTMARE..

NOT
AGAIN...



WHY
ARE YOU
CALLING
ME SO
BLOODY
EARLY?

YEAH,
MOM,
WHAT
IS IT?

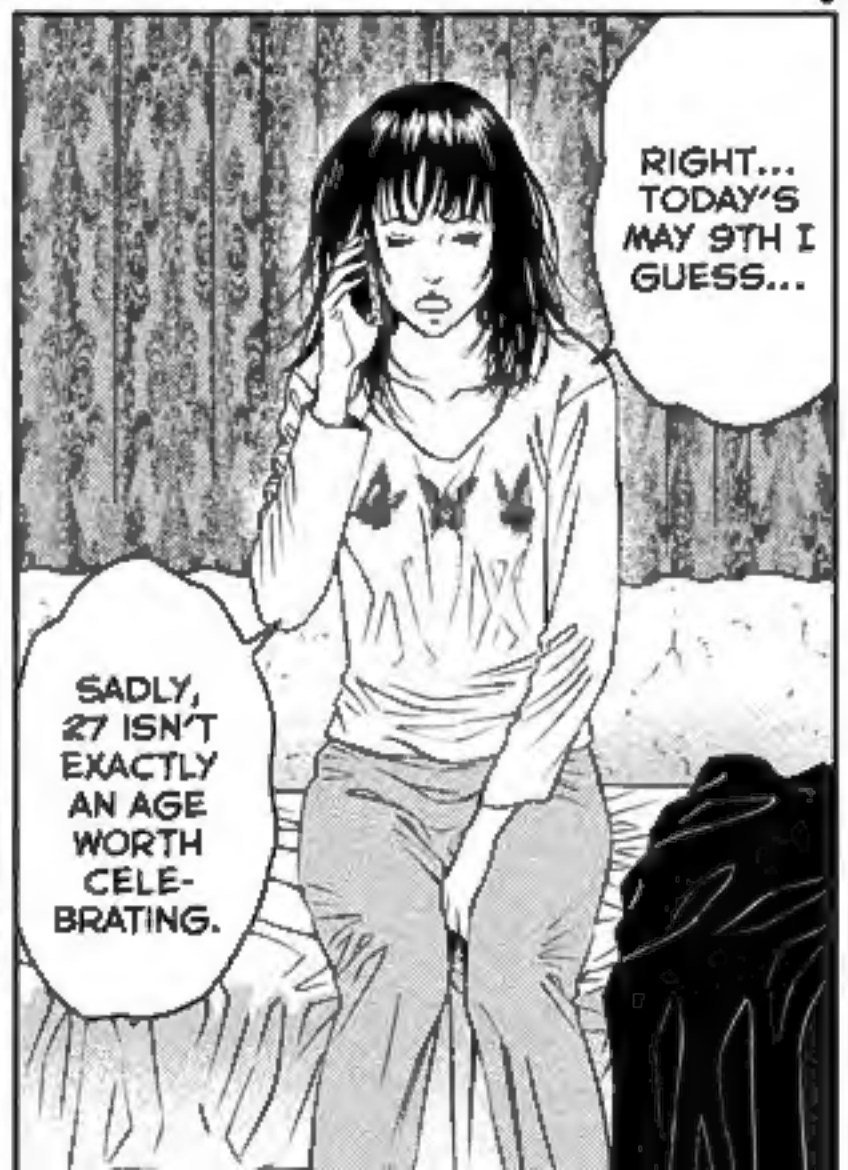
Happy
birthday,
Amane.



UGH,
YOU WAKE
ME UP
FOR THAT
CRAP!?

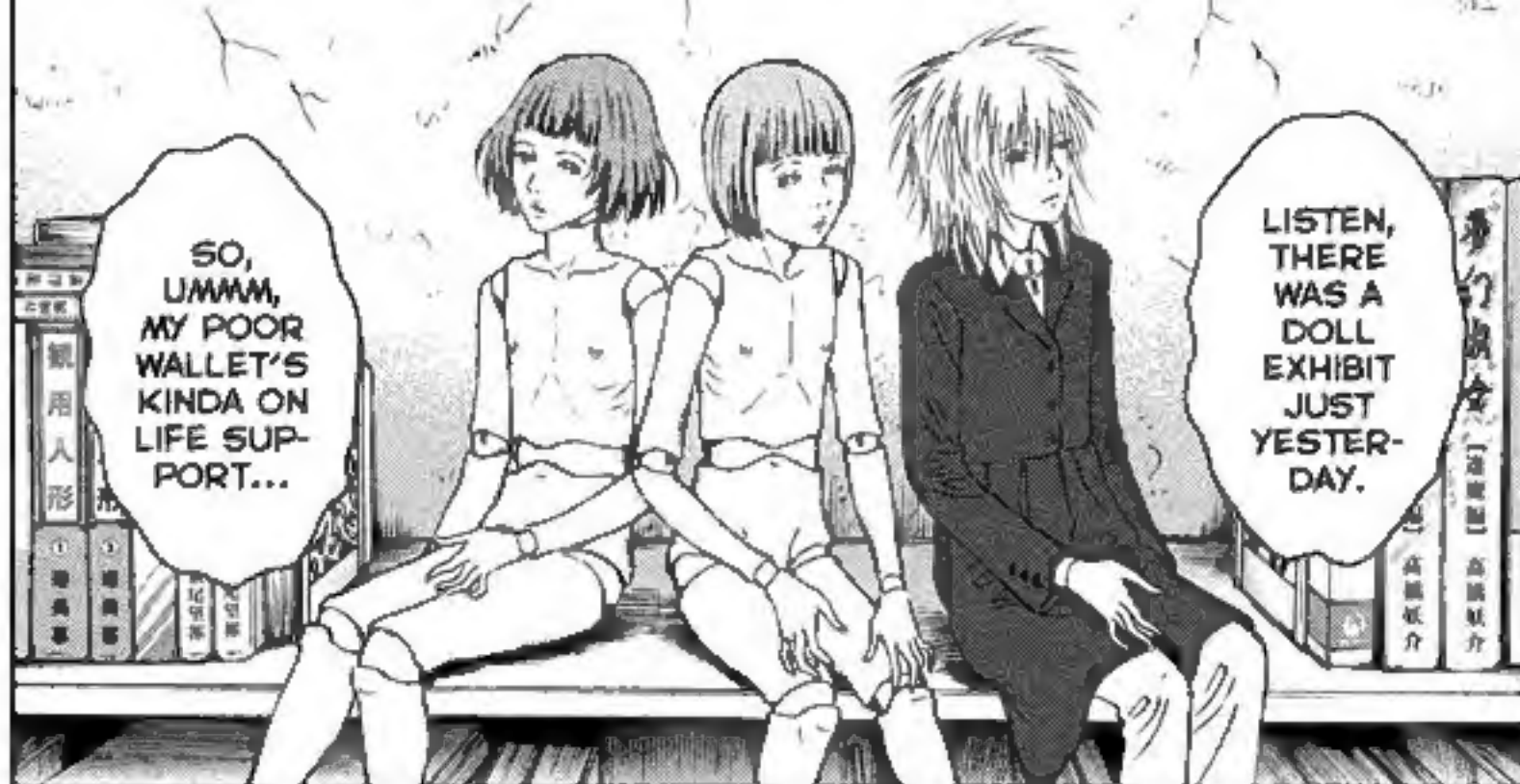
I'M YOUR
DAUGHTER,
CUT ME
SOME
SLACK!!

Also,
I thought
I'd
remind
you that
rent is
overdue.



RIGHT...
TODAY'S
MAY 9TH I
GUESS...

SADLY,
27 ISN'T
EXACTLY
AN AGE
WORTH
CELE-
BRATING.



SO,
UMMM,
MY POOR
WALLET'S
KINDA ON
LIFE SUP-
PORT...

LISTEN,
THERE
WAS A
DOLL
EXHIBIT
JUST YESTER-
DAY.



OH BOY,
HERE WE
GO...

Dolls. dolls.
dolls... Listen,
young lady!
You are 27
years old now,
let's be
realistic here!
It's about
fine time you
started acting
responsibly!



Please for your own sake,
yank yourself out of the
gutter. Put yourself out
there and find a man!
Don't waste any time to
get married, and-

Mon

beep

Since grandpa
passed away,
my parents have
the gall to charge
70 000 yen
each month as
rent to live here

All the way
out in Monzen
Nakacho is this
dilapidated little
house that once
belonged to my
grandfather

MAKE
SURE
TO FEED
YOUR
SELF

DEAR,
YOU'RE
THIN AS
STRING.

I'M
PERFECTLY
HEALTHY,
GRANDMA

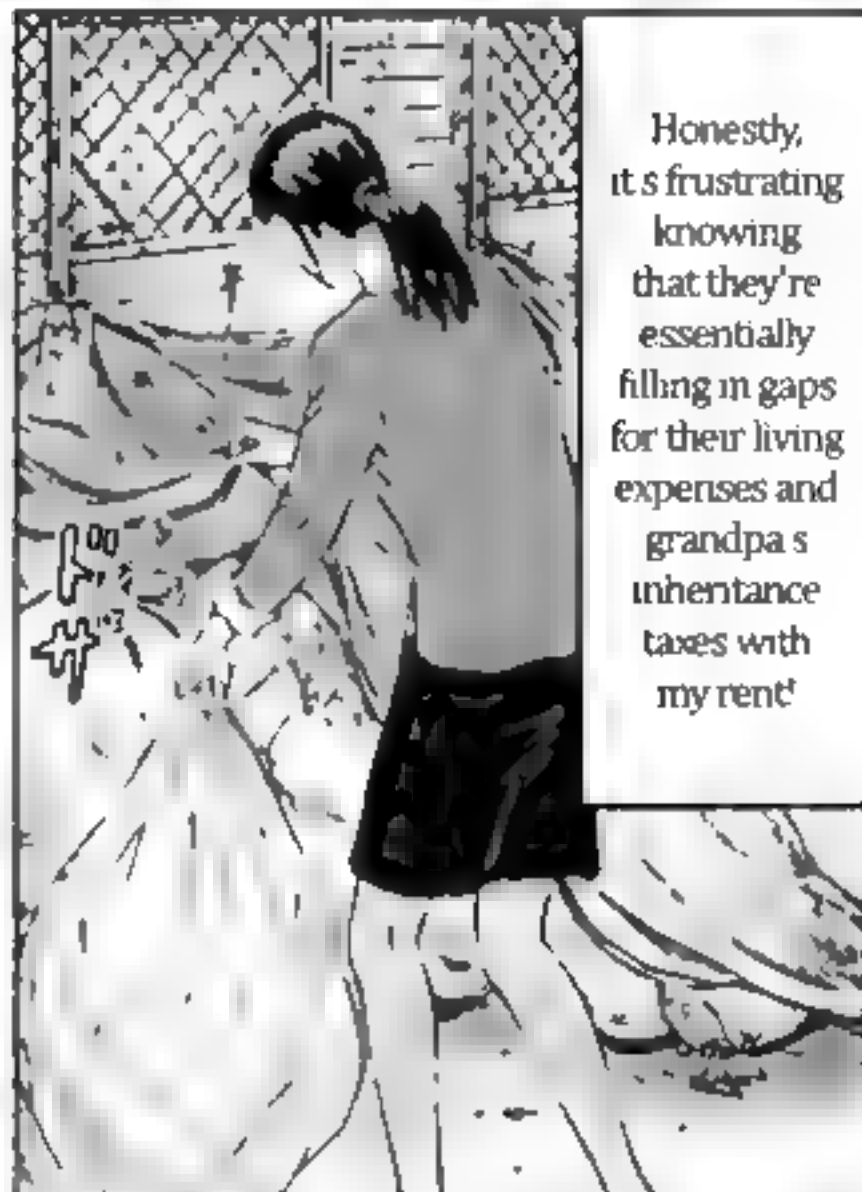
KAY...
I'M
HEADING
OUT.



Isn't
70,000 yen
a ridiculous
amount to
charge?
For their
daughter,
nonetheless?

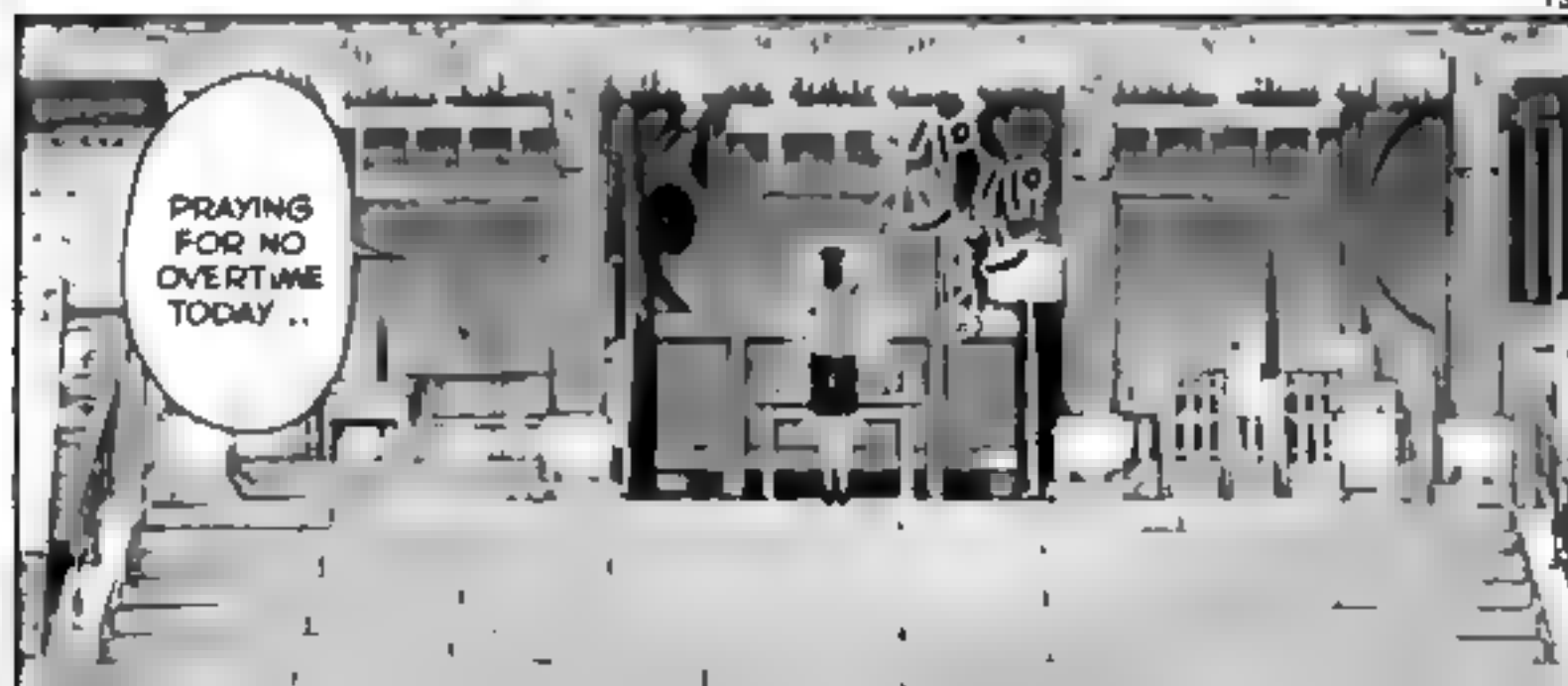
Considering
this place was
built around 80
years ago and
doesn't even
have a bath...

SIGN: TOMIOKA HACHIMAN SHRINE



Honestly,
it's frustrating
knowing
that they're
essentially
filling in gaps
for their living
expenses and
grandpa's
inheritance
taxes with
my rent!

13



PRAYING
FOR NO
OVERTIME
TODAY ..



NOT ONLY DO I HAVE MY AGE HOLDING ME DOWN, BUT I'VE GOT ABSOLUTELY ZERO RELATIONSHIP EXPERIENCE.

SICK AND TIRED OF MOM ALWAYS BRINGING UP MARRIAGE.

AHHH~ HOPE I CAN FINISH THE NEXT BATCH SOON~

WHO CARES? I'M HAPPY WITH MY FATE DYING ALONE SURROUNDED BY HEAPING PILES OF DOLLS!

14



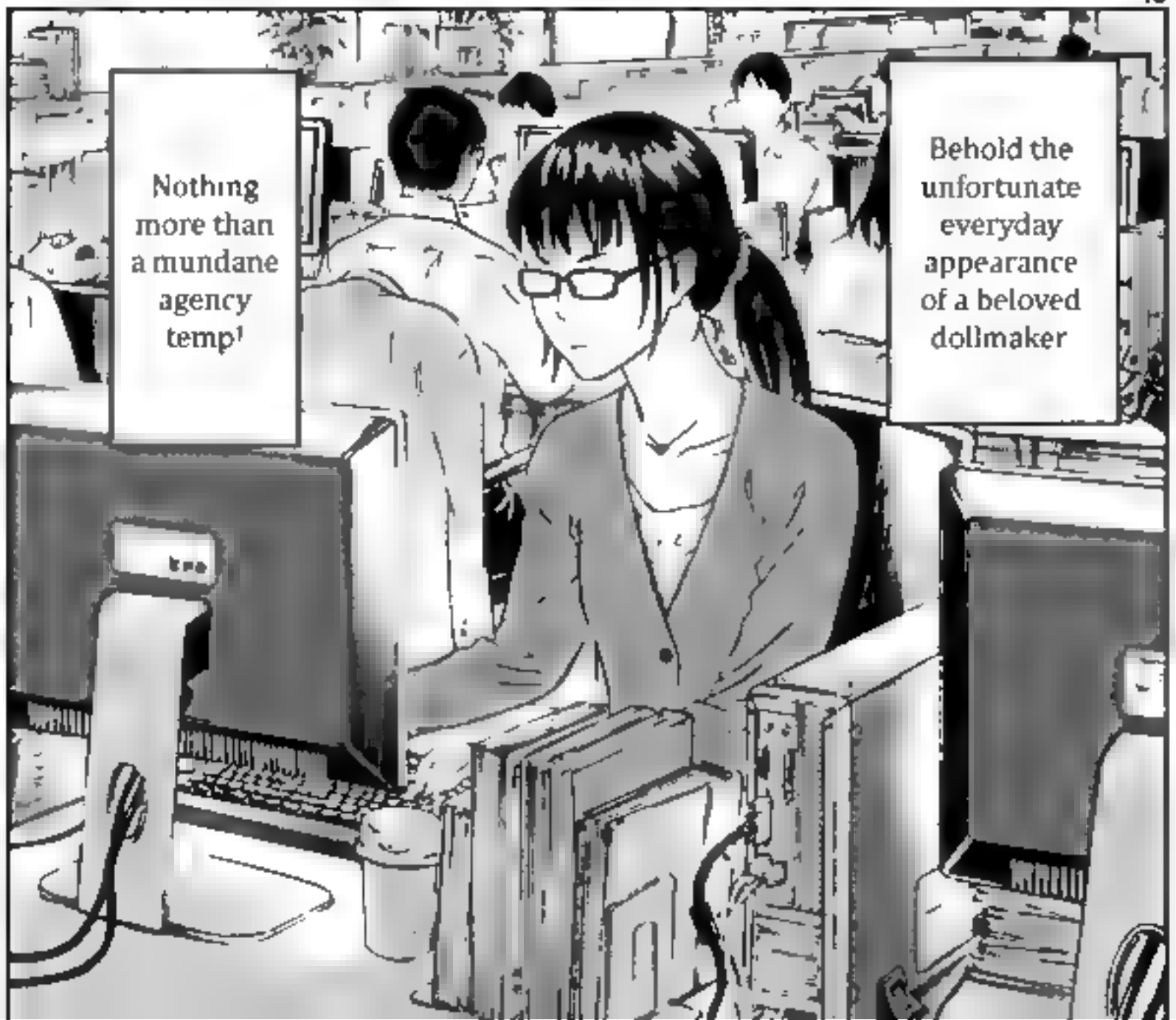
NOT MY FAULT DOLL-MAKING IS SO EXPENSIVE...

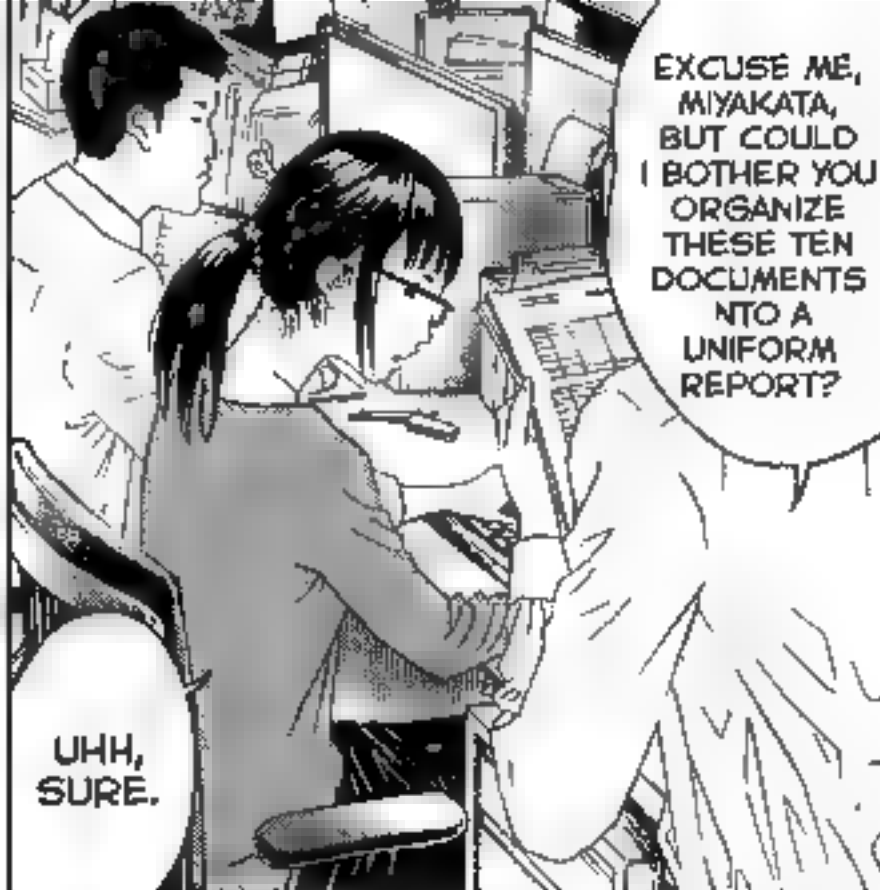
JUST HEARING THOSE WORDS COMPELS ME TO BREAK THE BANK!

I SIMPLY CANNOT WAIT FOR THE NEXT EXHIBITION~



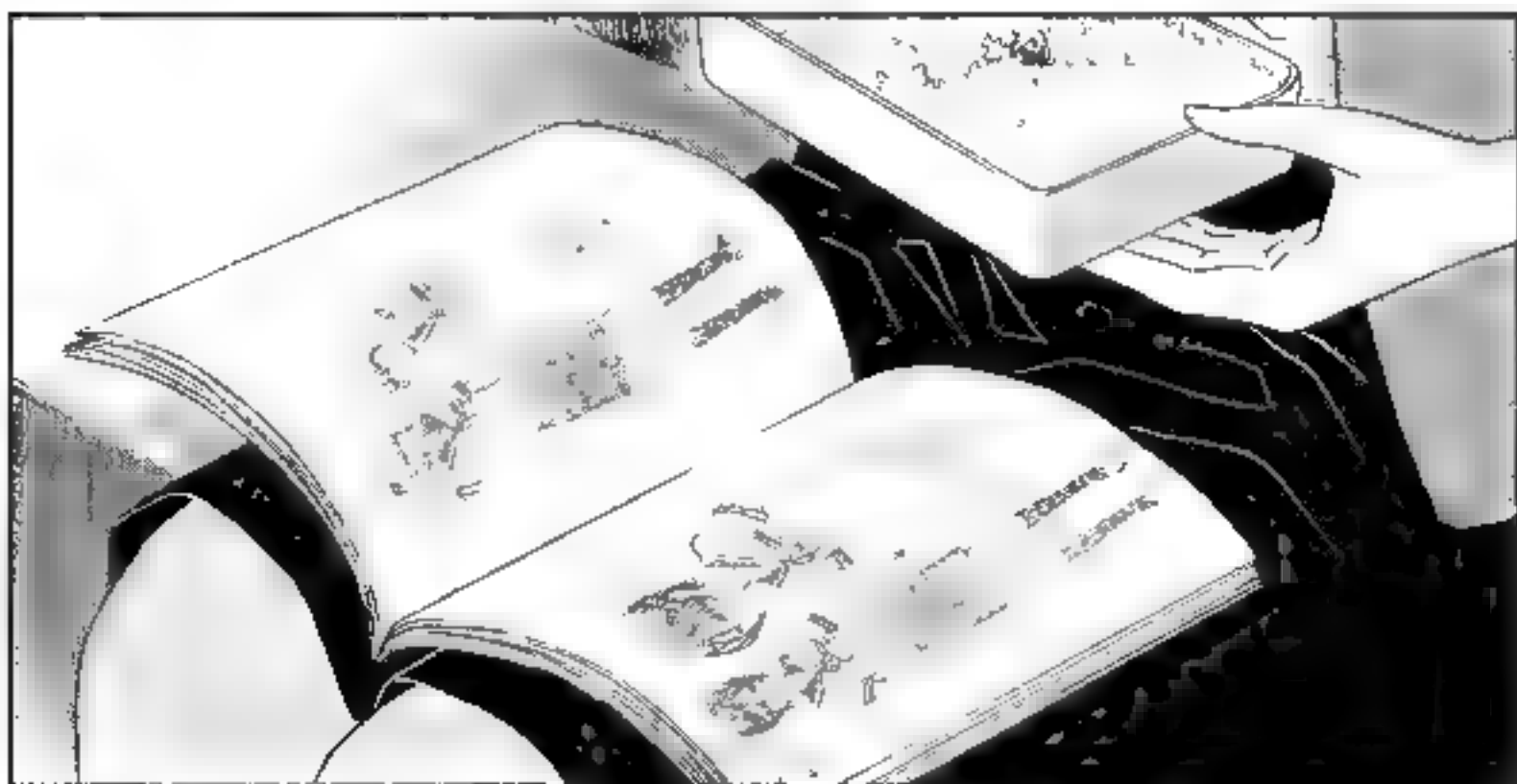
15





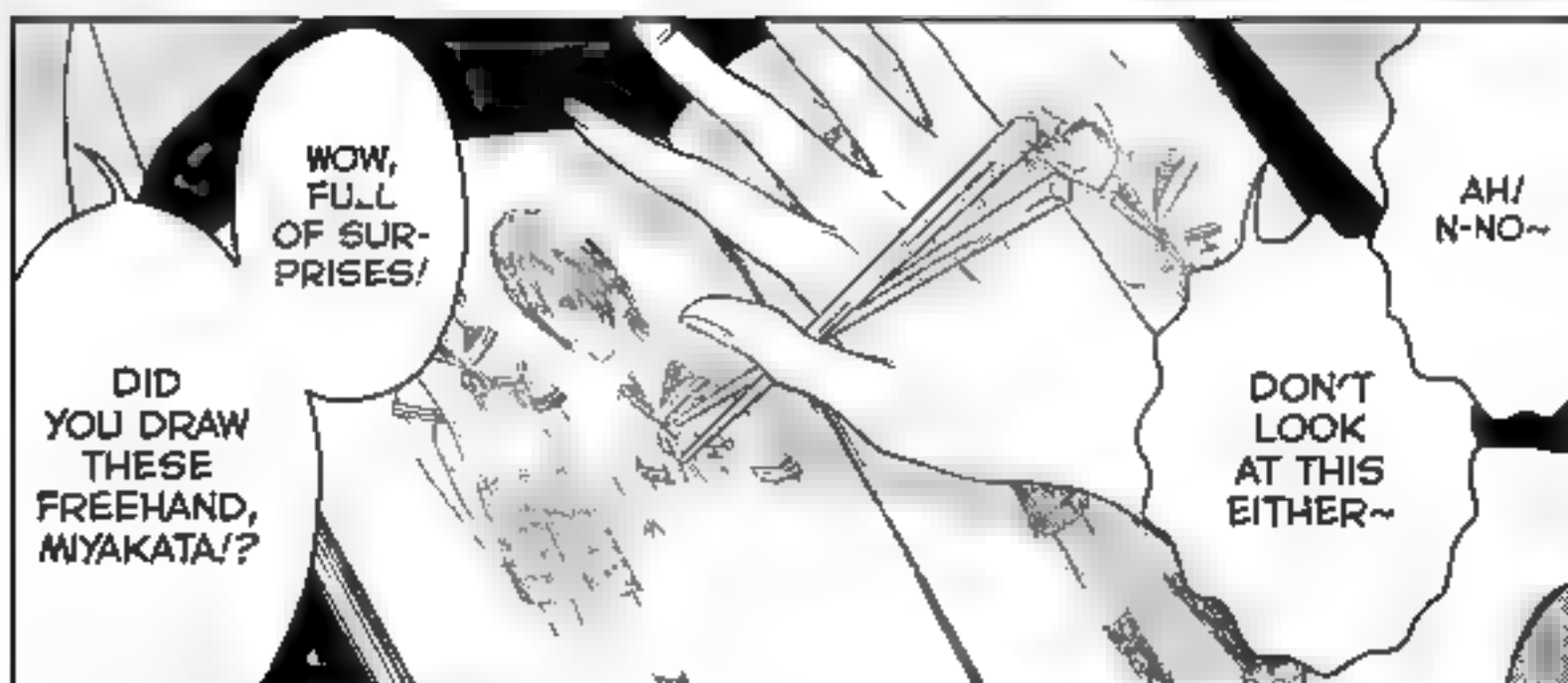
16



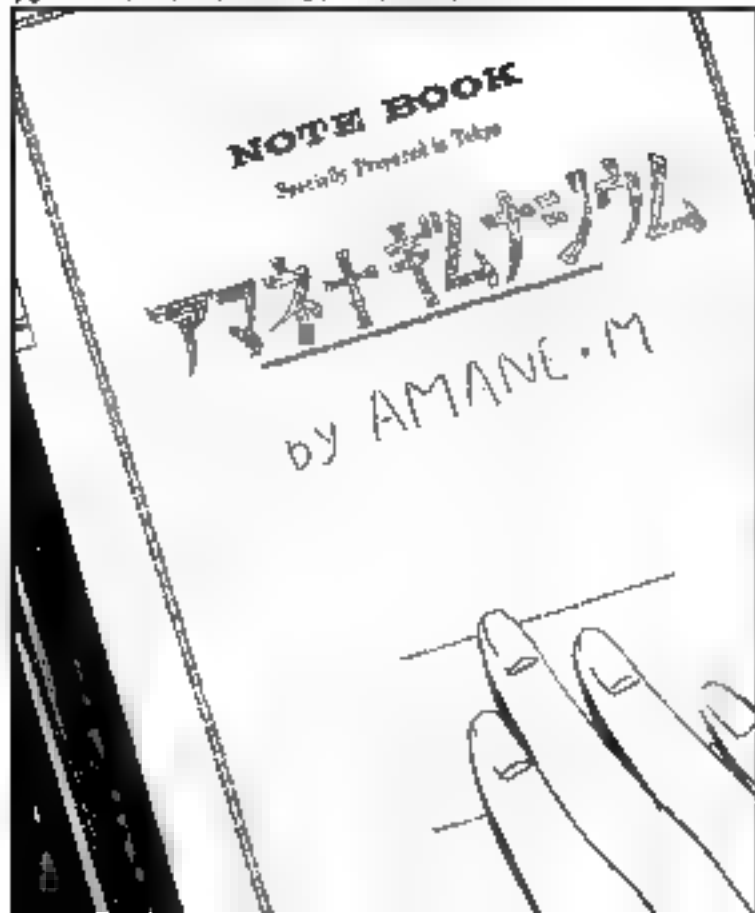


17





18 BOOK. AMANE+GYMNASIUM







EVENTUALLY,
AFTER GETTING
HOOKED,
I COULDN'T HELP
BUT WANT TO
CREATE MY OWN
GYMNASIUM.

DURING
MIDDLE
SCHOOL,
I CAME
ACROSS
THE SERIES
IN AN OLD
BOOKSHOP.

BOOK. AMANE+GYMNASIUM



THAT'S
THE WHOLE
STORY OF
AMANE+GYM-
NASIUM.

アマネ+ギムナジウム

by AMANE.M

A
GYMNASIUM
JUST FOR
MYSELF...



GASP

YOU'RE
INTEREST-
ING AFTER
ALL!

WOW,
MIYA-
KATA...



WELL, I'VE GOTTA PREP FOR THE AFTER NOON MEETING AT ONE.

SORRY TO BOLT ON YOU.

CAN'T WAIT TO TALK AGAIN!

OH... YEAH.



THIS IS BAD! I TOTALLY LET MY GUARD DOWN!!

SHIT...

21



ANYONE WOULD BE PUT OFF HAVING TO SUFFER THROUGH LISTENING TO ME BABBLE ABOUT MY OLD MEMORIES AND FAVORITE THINGS LIKE SOME DISGUSTING OTAKU!!

WAIT, THAT GUY... WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN...?

THROUGHOUT ALL MY TIME HERE, I'VE NEVER BOTHERED SPEAKING TO MY COWORKERS UNLESS TRULY NECESSARY. YET I START FEVERISHLY BLITHERING ON AND ON ABOUT HAGIO MOTO OUT OF THE BLUE!?

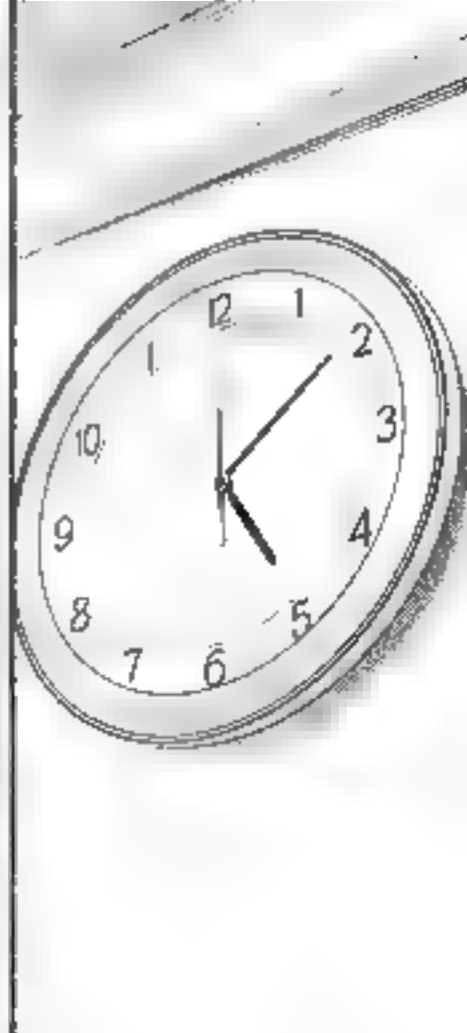


TALKING MY MOUTH OFF LIKE THAT!!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ME!?

GOBBLE

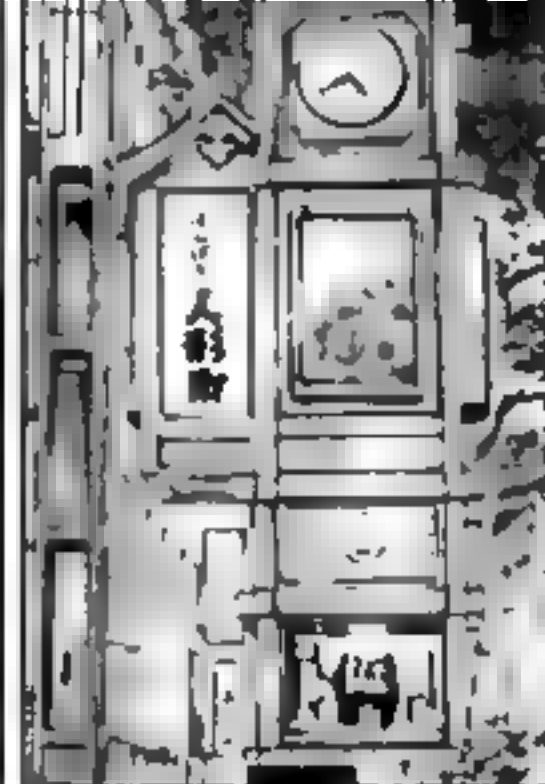
NOW I'M MORE EMBARRASSED THAN EVER~





23





24

SIGN IN HONSHASHI DOLL TOWN



SIGNS
RIGHT LEFT,
TOP-BOTTOM:

CLEARANCE
SALE

NICONICO
ART SUPPLY
SHOP

THANKS FOR
45 YEARS OF
PATRONAGE
(MANAGER)

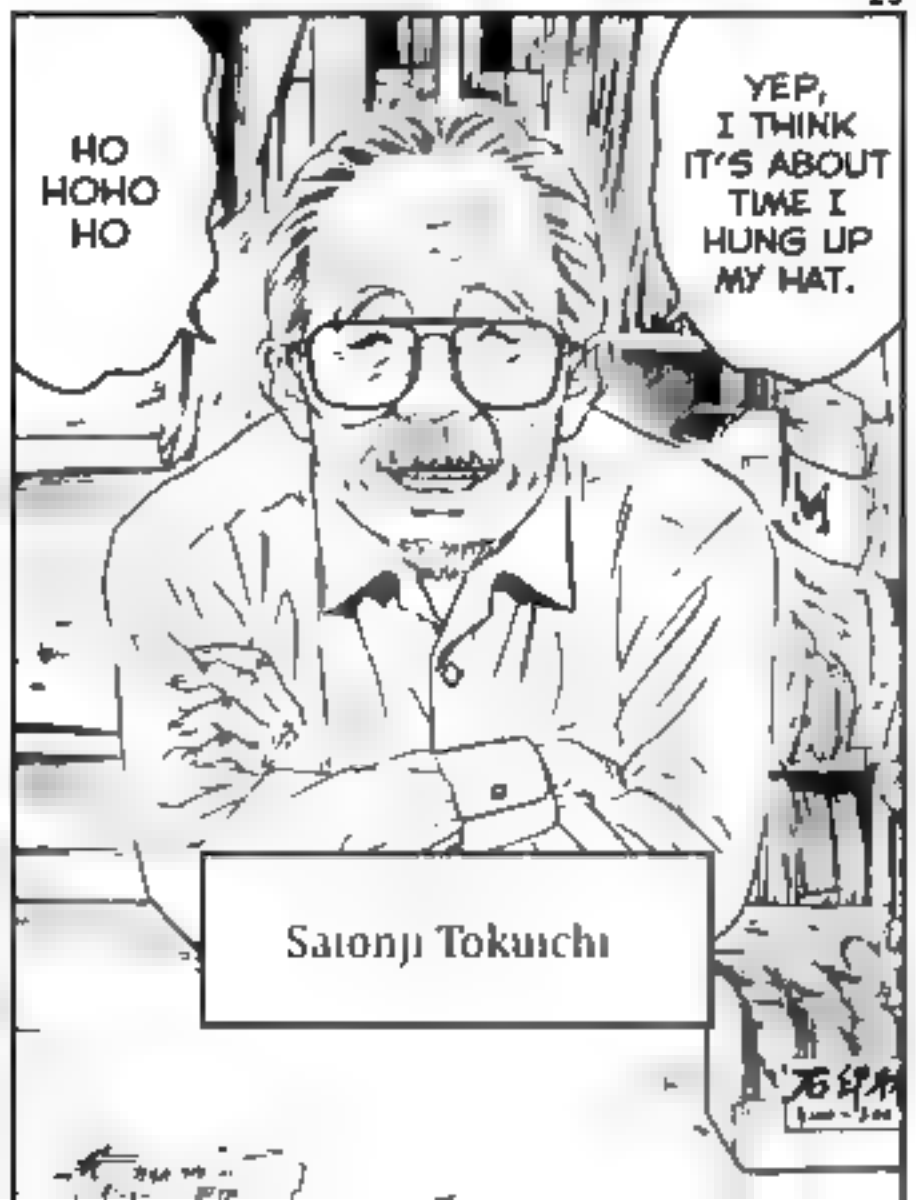
GOING OUT
OF BUSINESS
SALE

REMBRANT,
FADER,
CASTELL,
KUSAKABE,
MATSUDA,
ALL HALF
PRICE

ANYTHING IN
THIS BIN 10
YEN



25



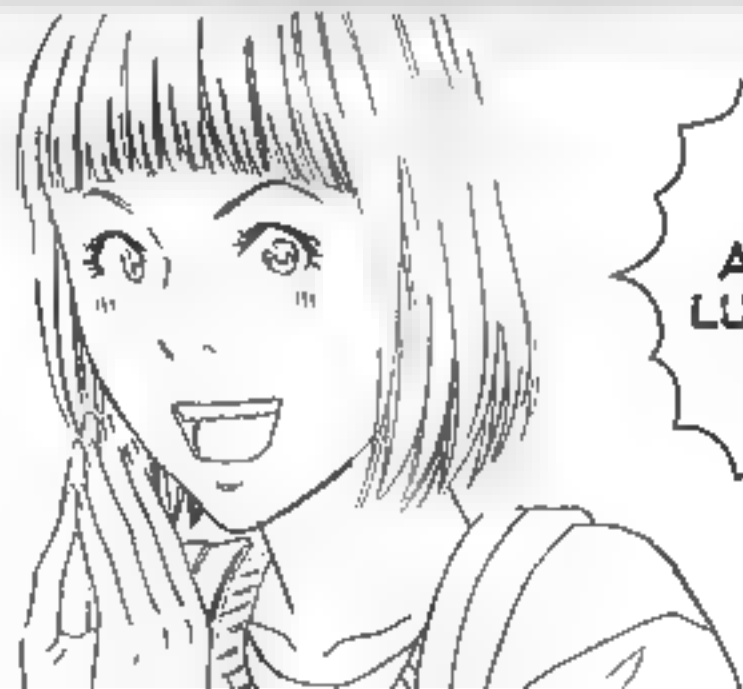




Sally Tokatch
Toku for short
Despite appearances
he was a d...
making veteran
with 45 years of
experience.



Thinking back,
my destined
encounter with
doli culture
happened right
then and there



ABSO-
LUTELY!!



With Toku
at my side,
he taught me
the ropes of
dollmaking
technique



I
ALREADY
FEEL
LONELY!!!

AWWW~
THE WORST
PART IS
I PRETTY
MUCH WON'T
SEE YOU
AGAIN,
TOKU...

28



...GONNA
HAVE TO
DECLINE.

THEN
YOU CAN
SEE ME
WHENEVER
YOU LIKE.

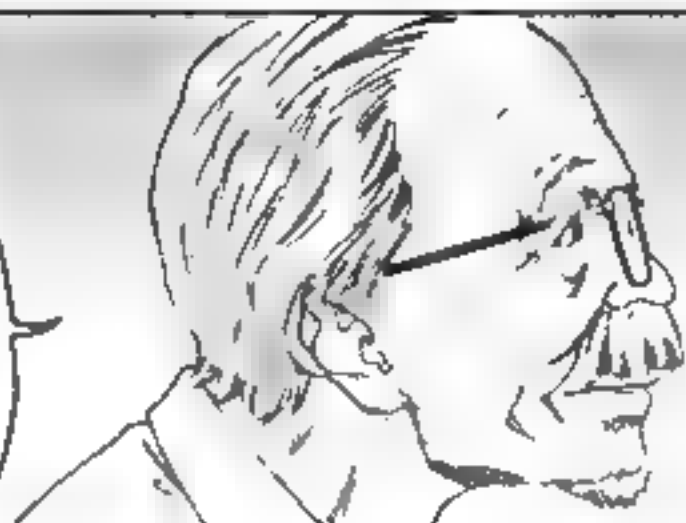
DON'T
YOU WORRY,
AMANE.
LET'S NOT
WASTE ANY
TIME AND GET
HITCHED.

EVEN
WORSE,
YOUR PRICES
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
ROCK BOTTOM
COMPARED TO
OTHER PLACES.
I'M GONNA DIE
PAYING FULL
PRICE~



JEEZ,
YOU NEVER
EVEN BOTHERED
MENTIONING THE
SHOP GOING UP
FOR SALE.
I WOULDN'T
HAVE KNOWN
IF I DIDN'T
STOP BY.

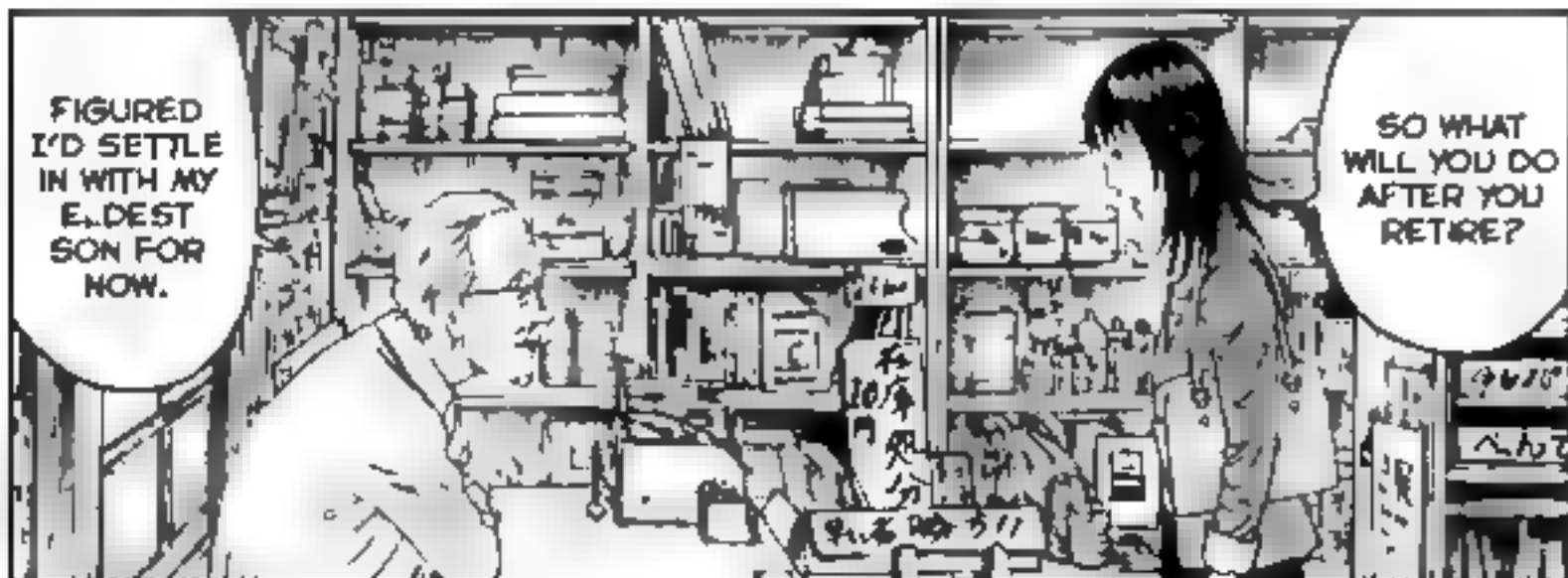
AMANE,
YOU'LL HAVE
TO CUT
ME SOME
SLACK.



BOTTOM
LINE IS
THAT I'M
78 NOW.

HO
HOHO

FIGURED
I'D SETTLE
IN WITH MY
ELDEST
SON FOR
NOW.



SO WHAT
WILL YOU DO
AFTER YOU
RETIRE?

29



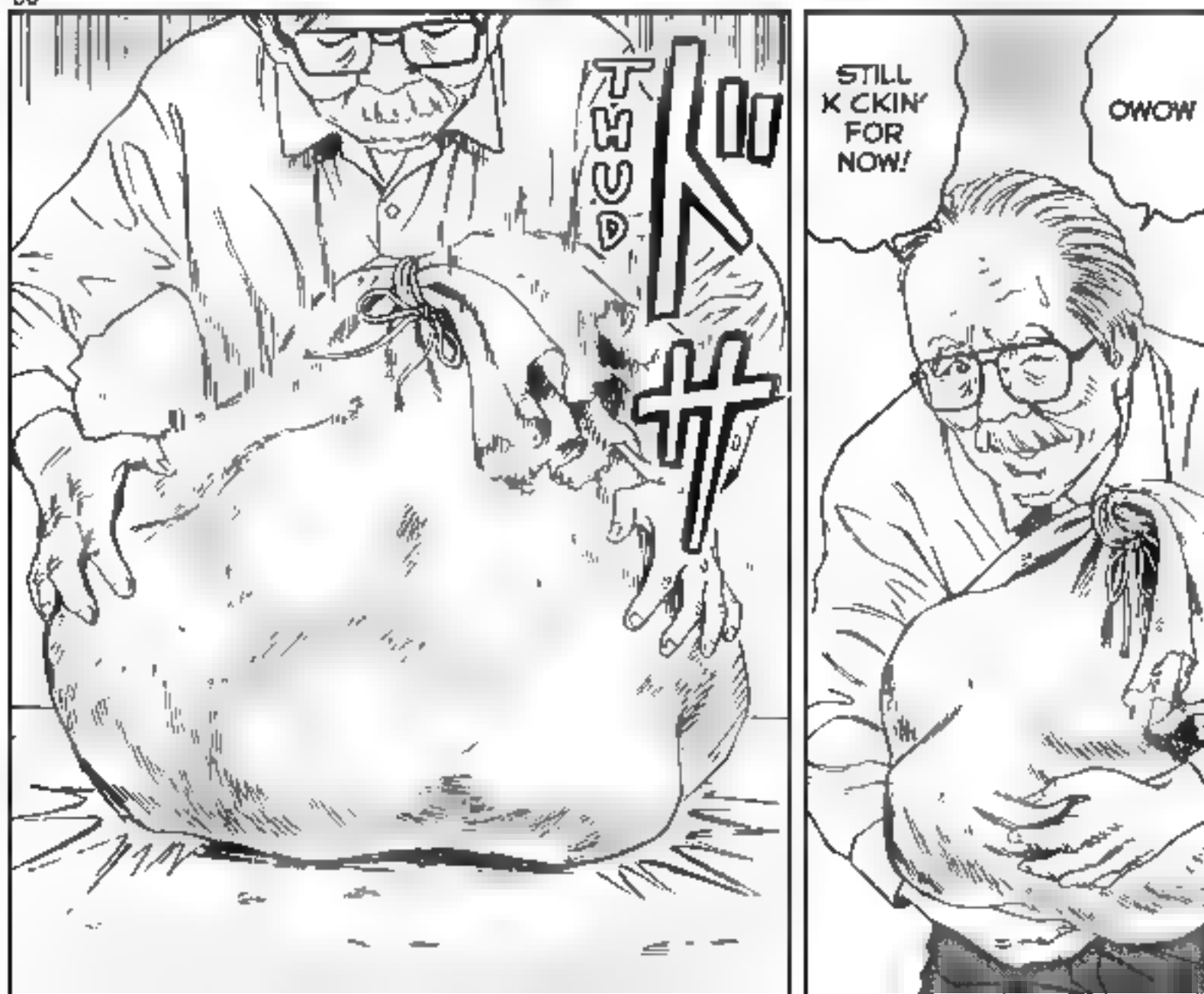
WAIT
THERE A
MINUTE.



AH,
YES.



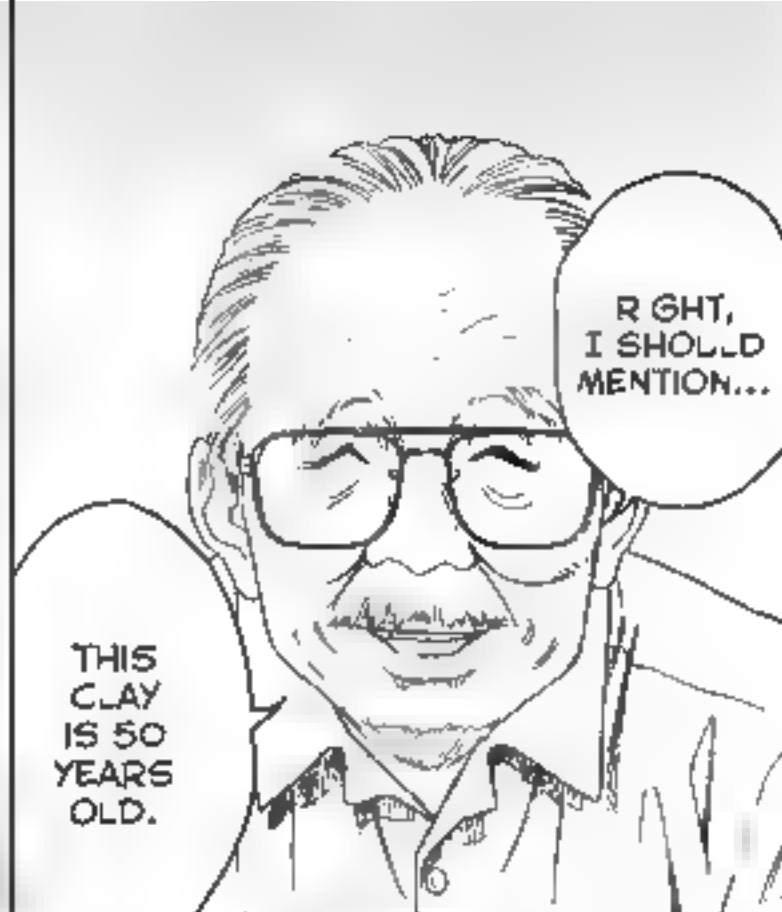
30





31











NO
ENERGY
LEFT!!

ドッ
プンッ
PLUNGE!!

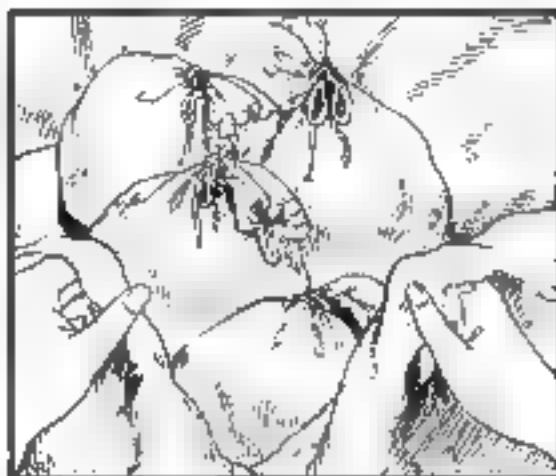


カッ
カッ

GENERALLY,
I'VE GOT
HORRIBLY
ROTTEN LUCK
IN LIFE. JUST
THIS ONCE...
GODS,
BE GRACEFUL!!

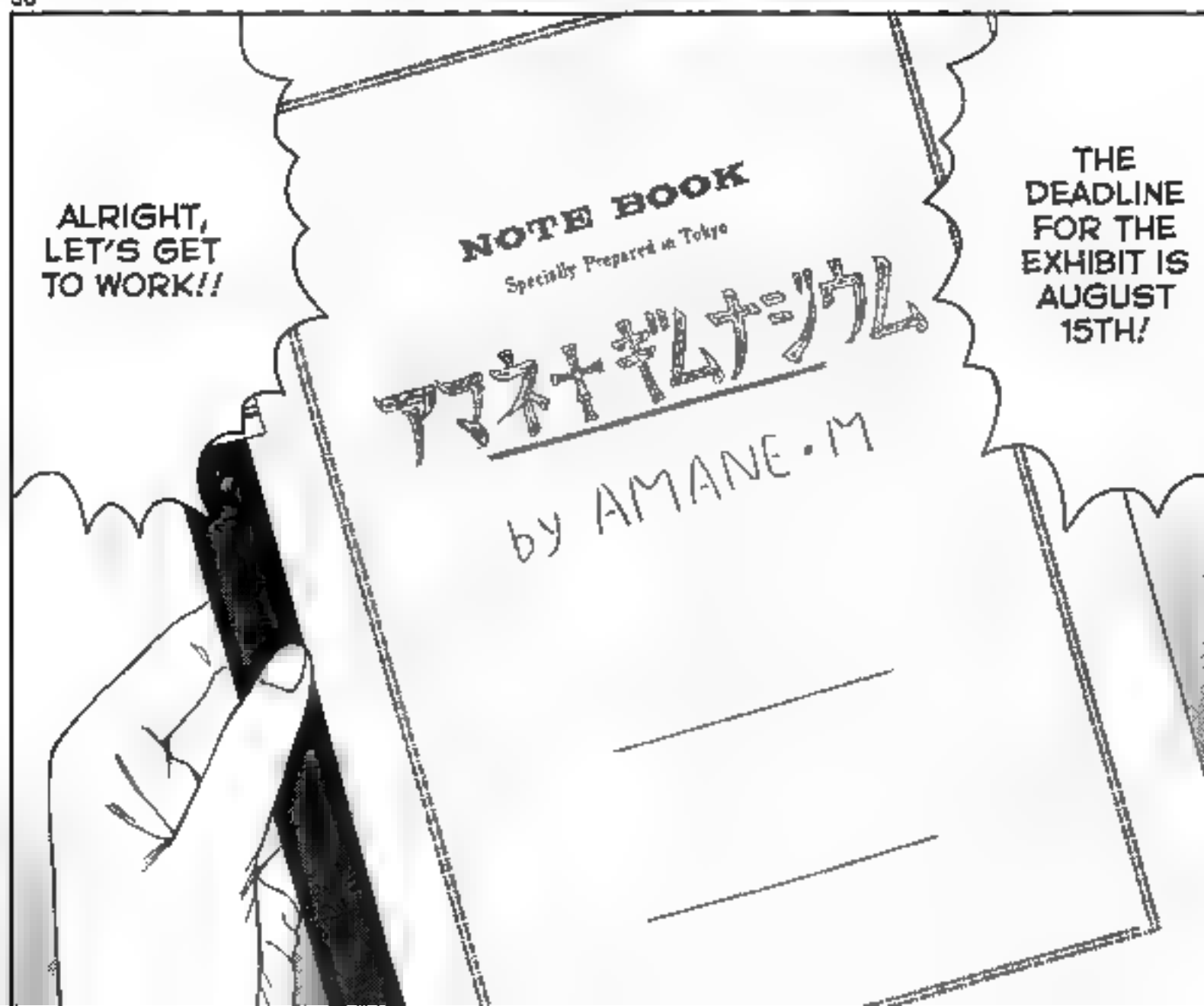


MY
ODYSSEY OF
SUFFERING...
BETTER PAY
OFF!





36





Without
question,
my theme for
the exhibition
will be the
Gymnasium
setting.

Concept-wise,
I'm finally going
to make use of the
seven students
I sketched back in
middle school.

Around
the time
I turned 22,
I came
across
my old
notebook.

I wasted
no time at
all redirecting
my life's path
towards doll-
making.

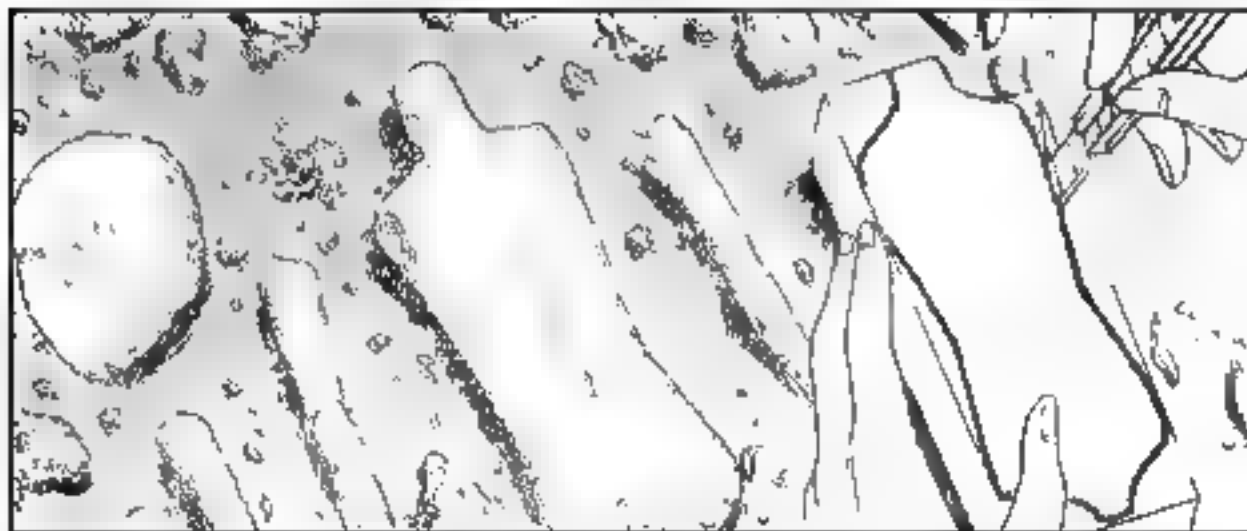
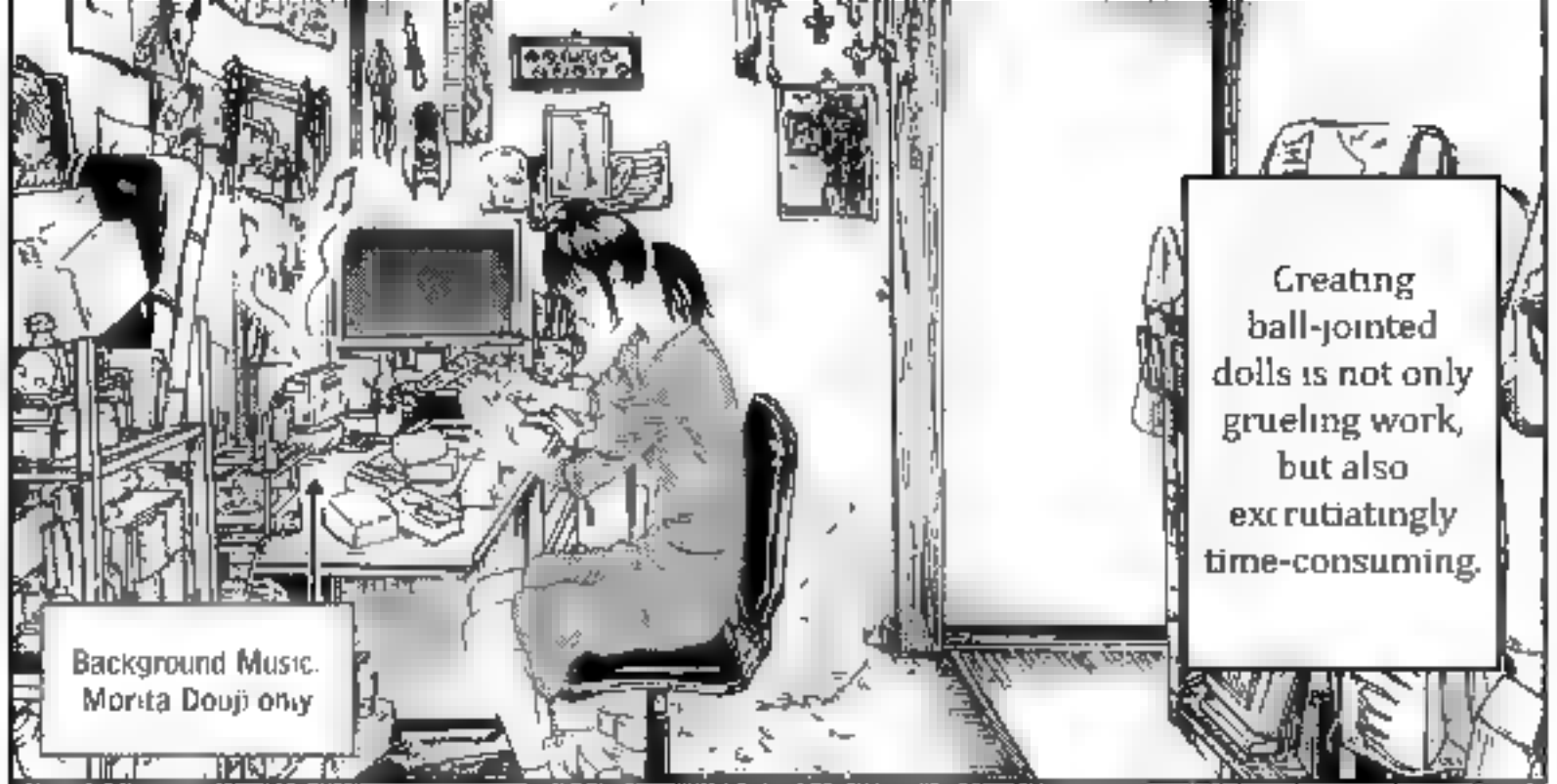
I pon
dramatically
failed all of
my university
entrance
exams.

Knead the clay
to work out
air pockets
manual labor!

I've
made it
this far with
that goal
in mind.

Looking
through it,
I vowed that
if I ever became
especially adept
at dollmaking,
I'd bring those
boys to life

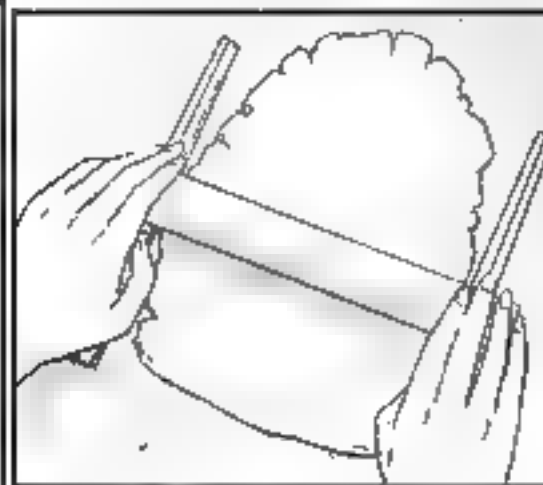
The next
exhibition
is a special
occasion,
perfect for
their debut.



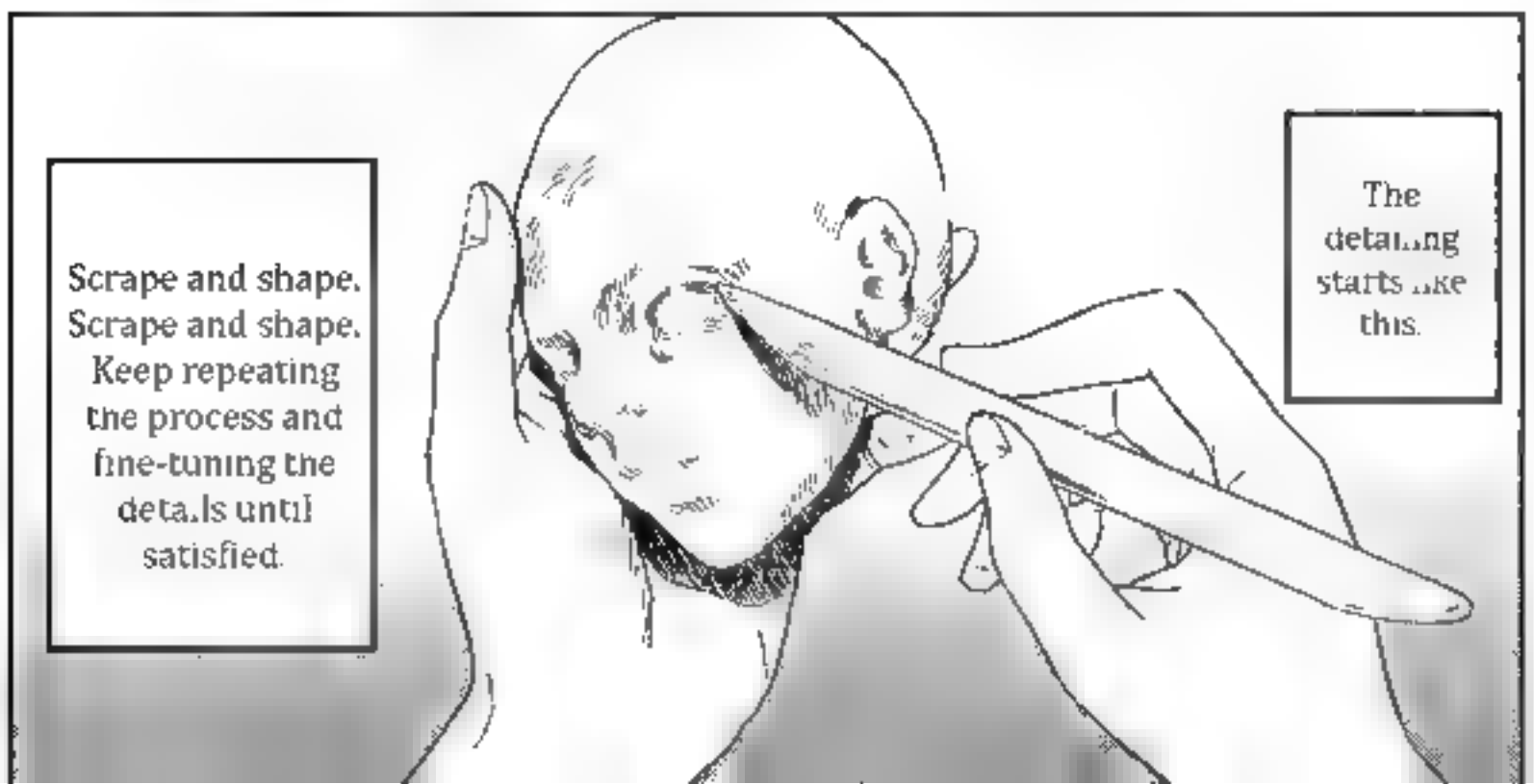
The first step is to cut out a base core using hardened styrene.



The flattened clay is wrapped around the styrene base to give the clay the correct shape.



Next, flatten out some of the clay.



Scrape and shape. Scrape and shape. Keep repeating the process and fine-tuning the details until satisfied.

The detailing starts like this.

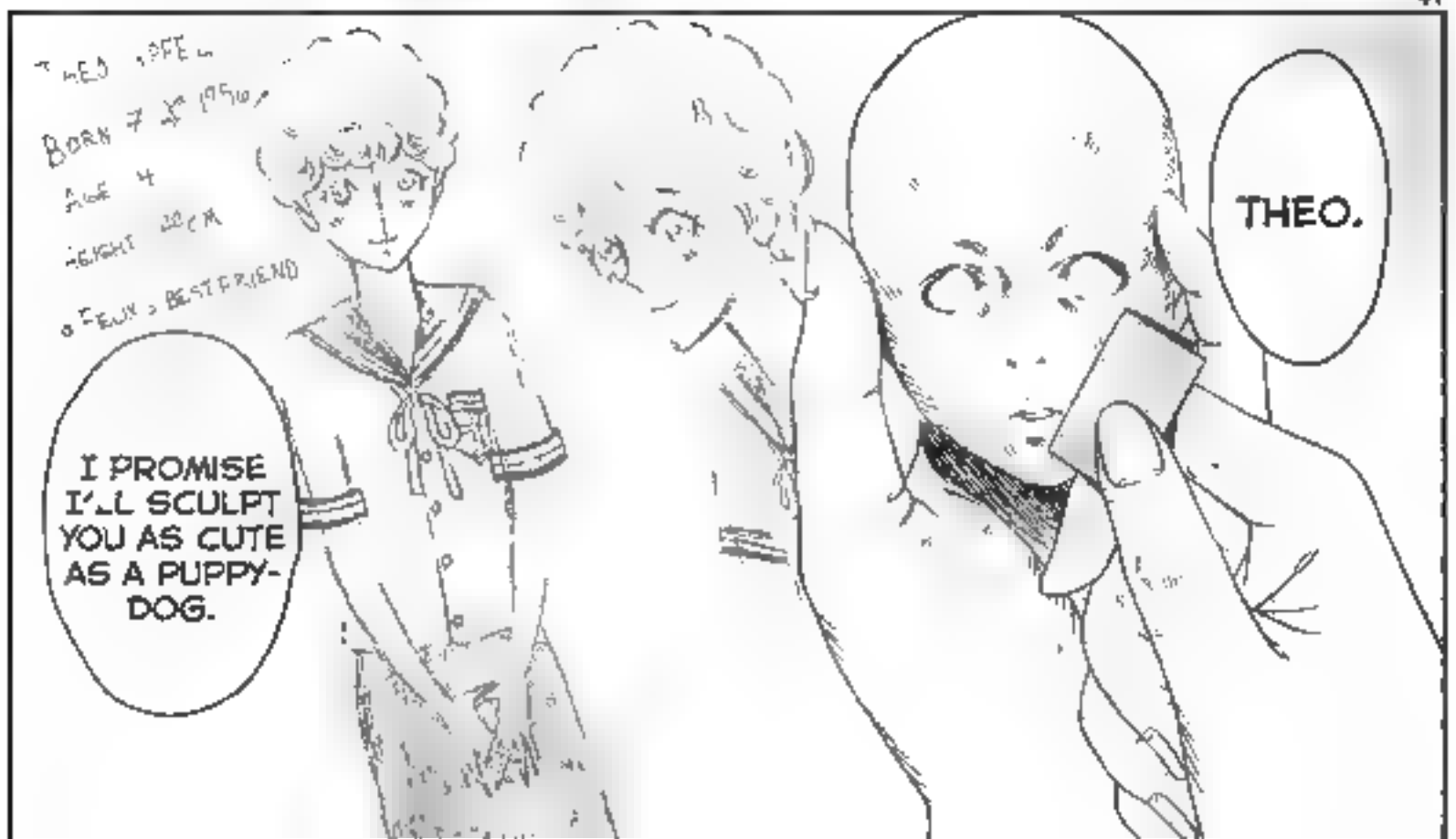
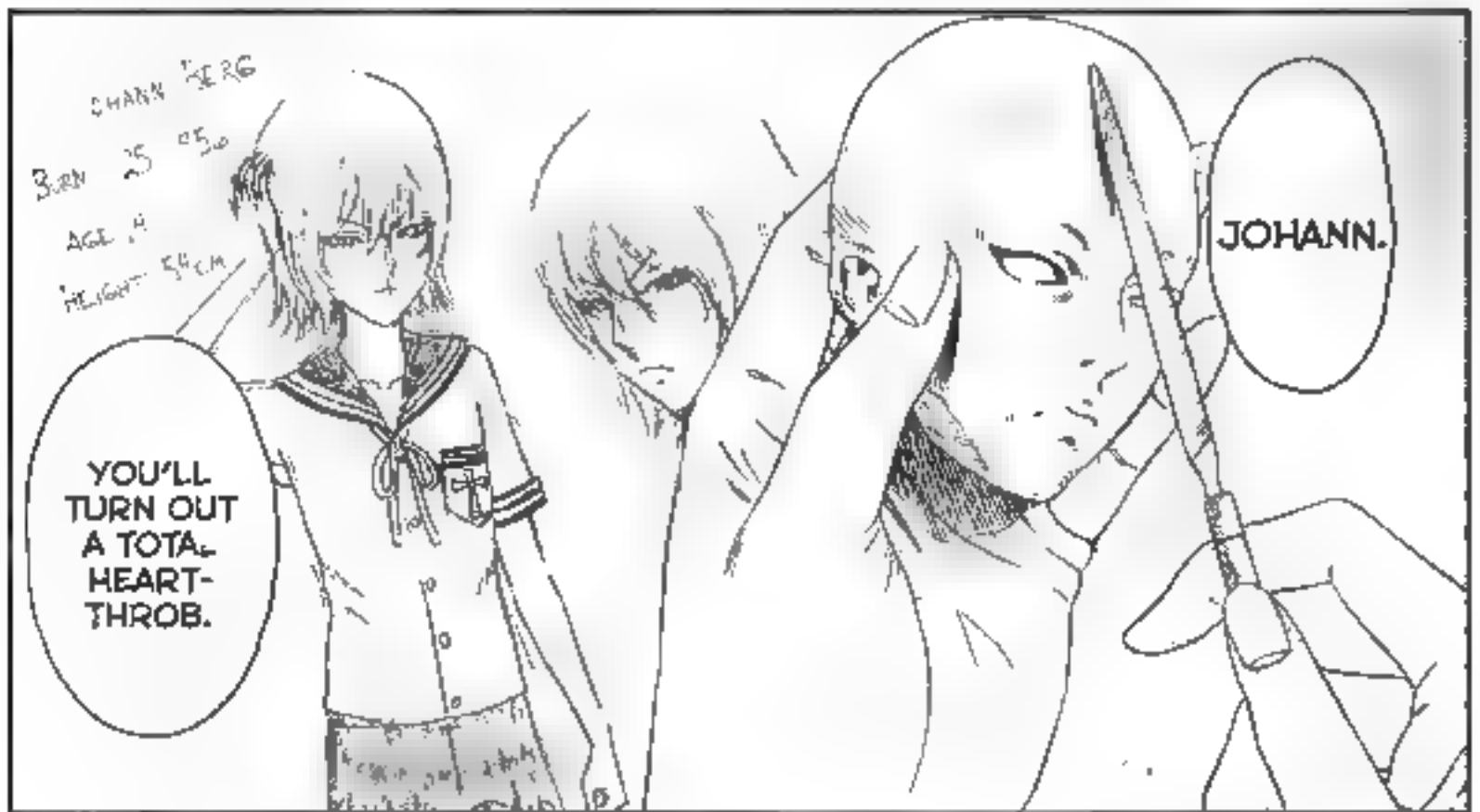
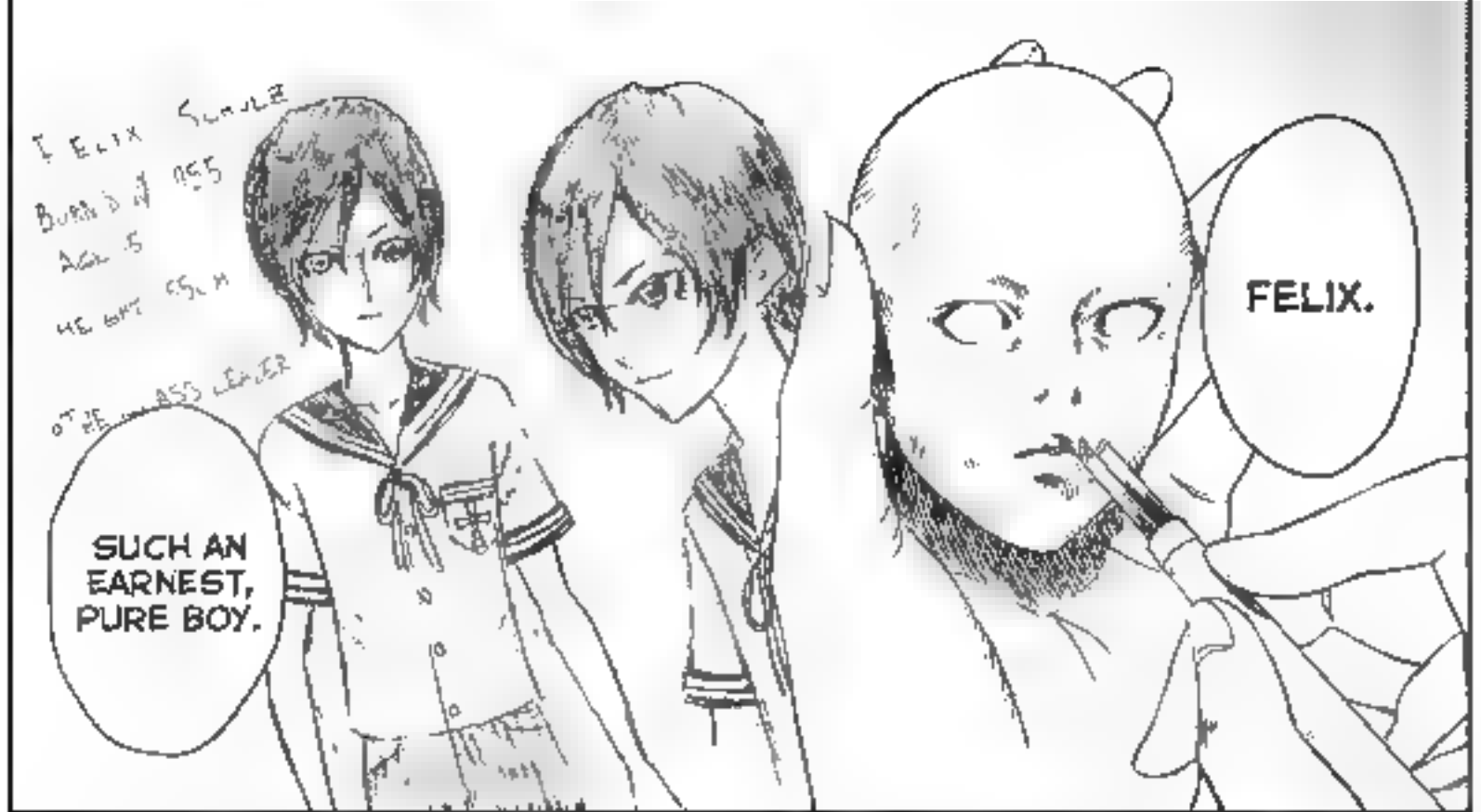


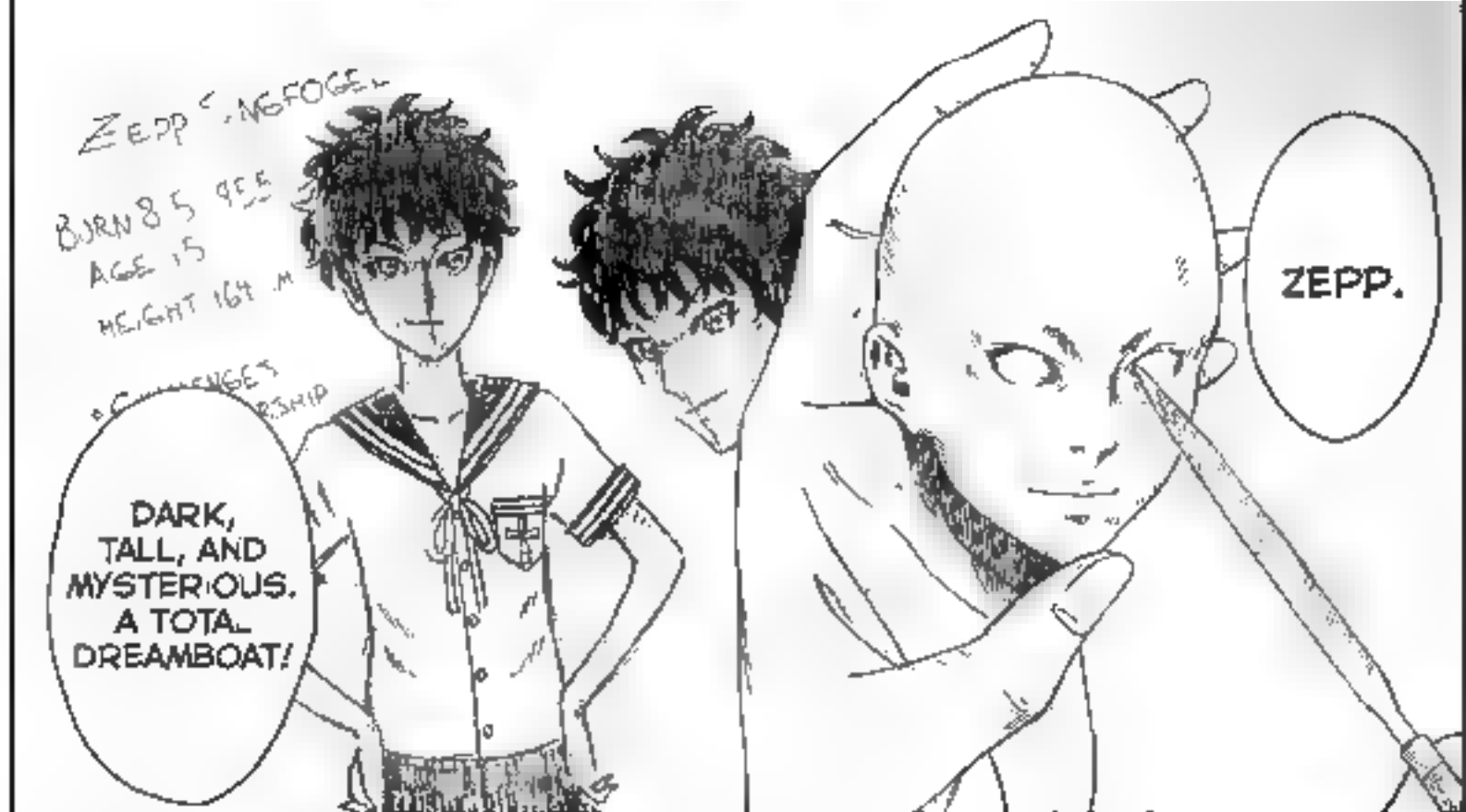
By combining the appropriate usage of metal files and paper files the curvature and finer body structure start to show definition

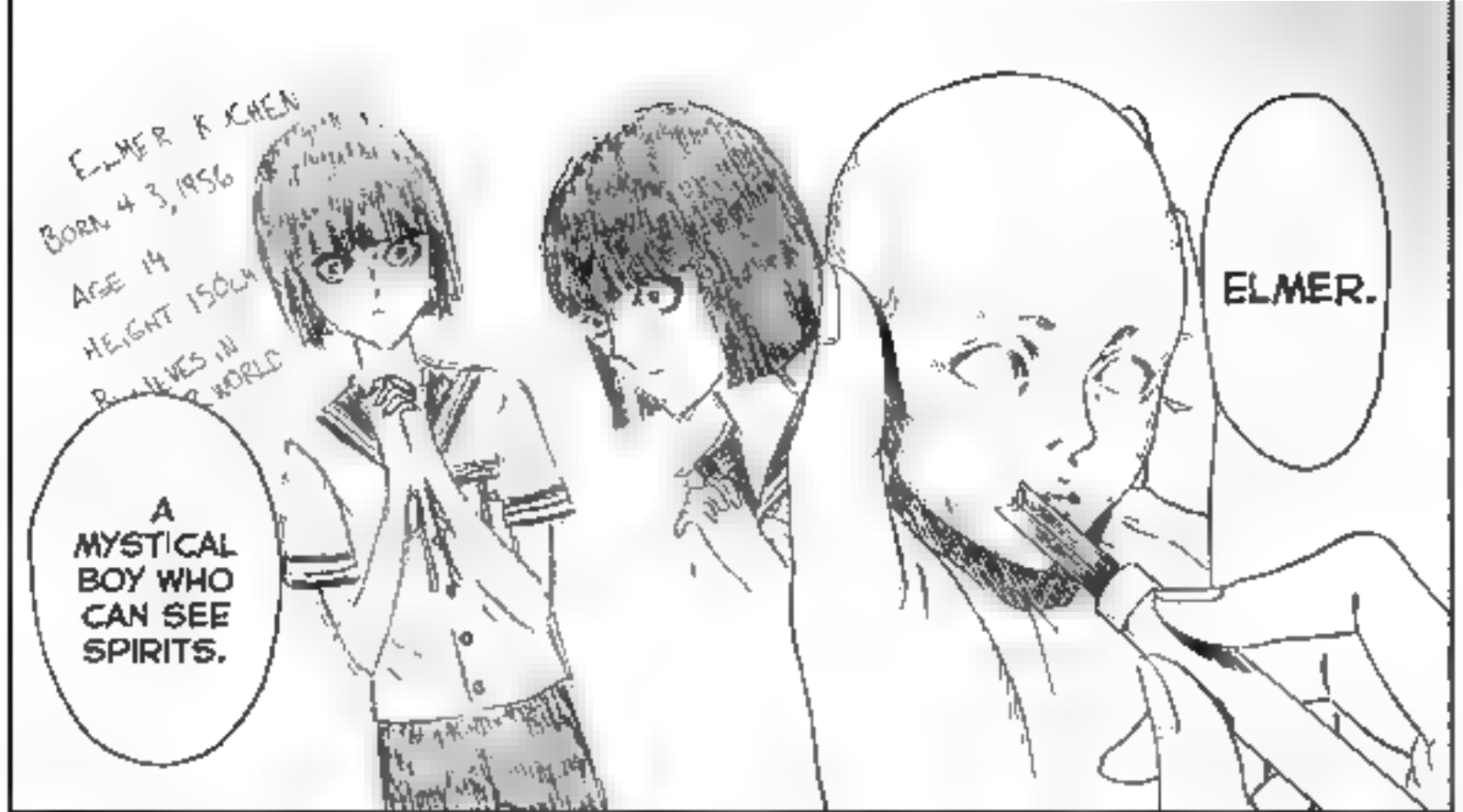


Next is sanding down the clay

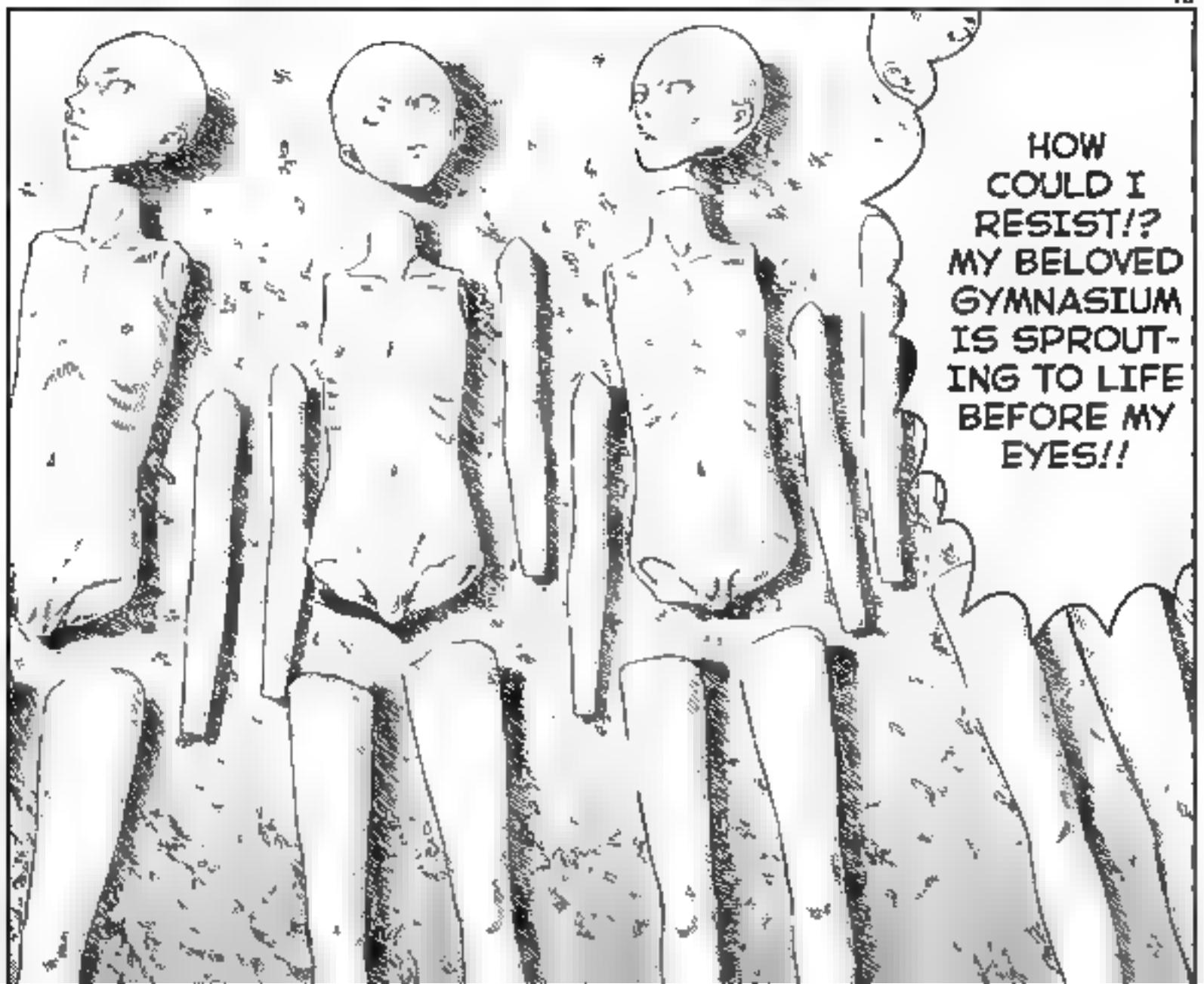




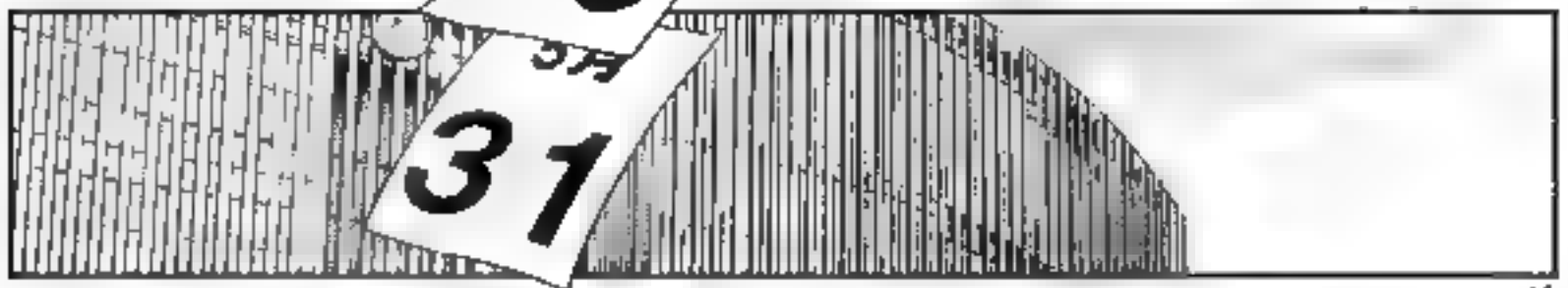




43

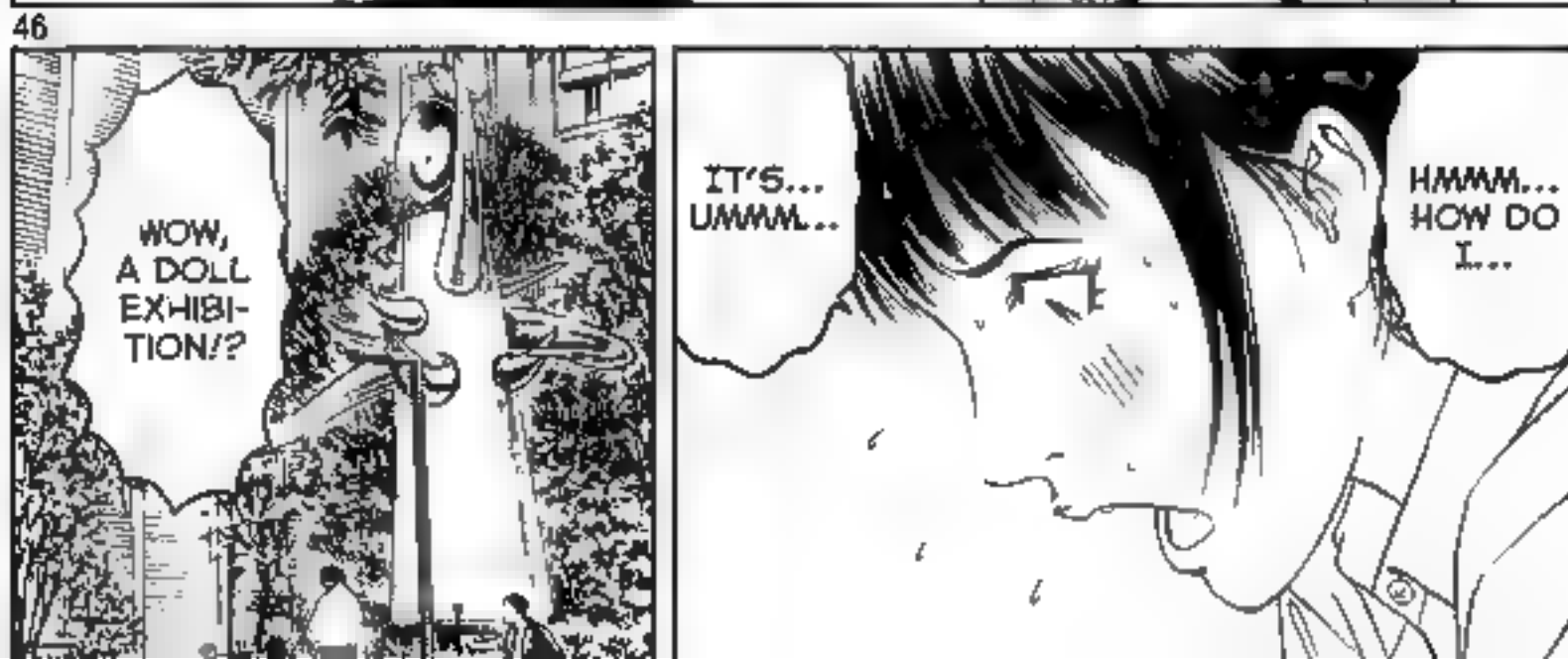






45







O-ONLY
IF YOU
KEEP IT
A SECRET
FROM
THE REST
OF THE
STAFF..

I'D
LOVE TO
ATTEND!

WHERE
IS IT?
PLEASE
TELL ME!

6月

26

47



YIKES,
I'M
STARTING
TO RUN OUT
OF TIME!

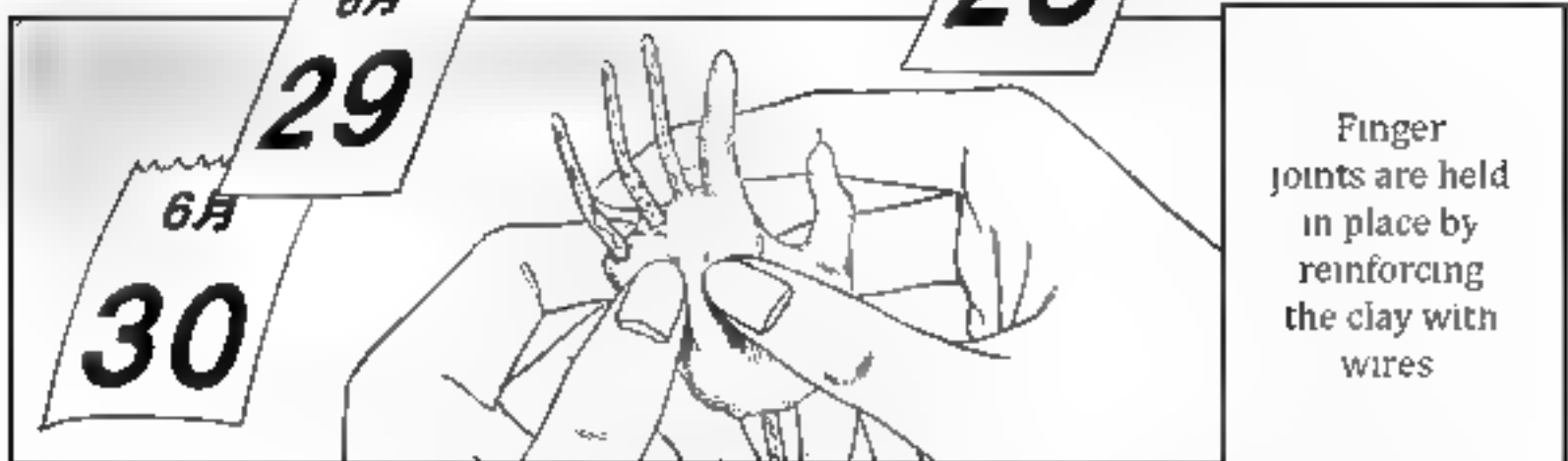
6月

27

BARELY A
MONTH AND
A HALF LEFT
TO GO!

6月

28



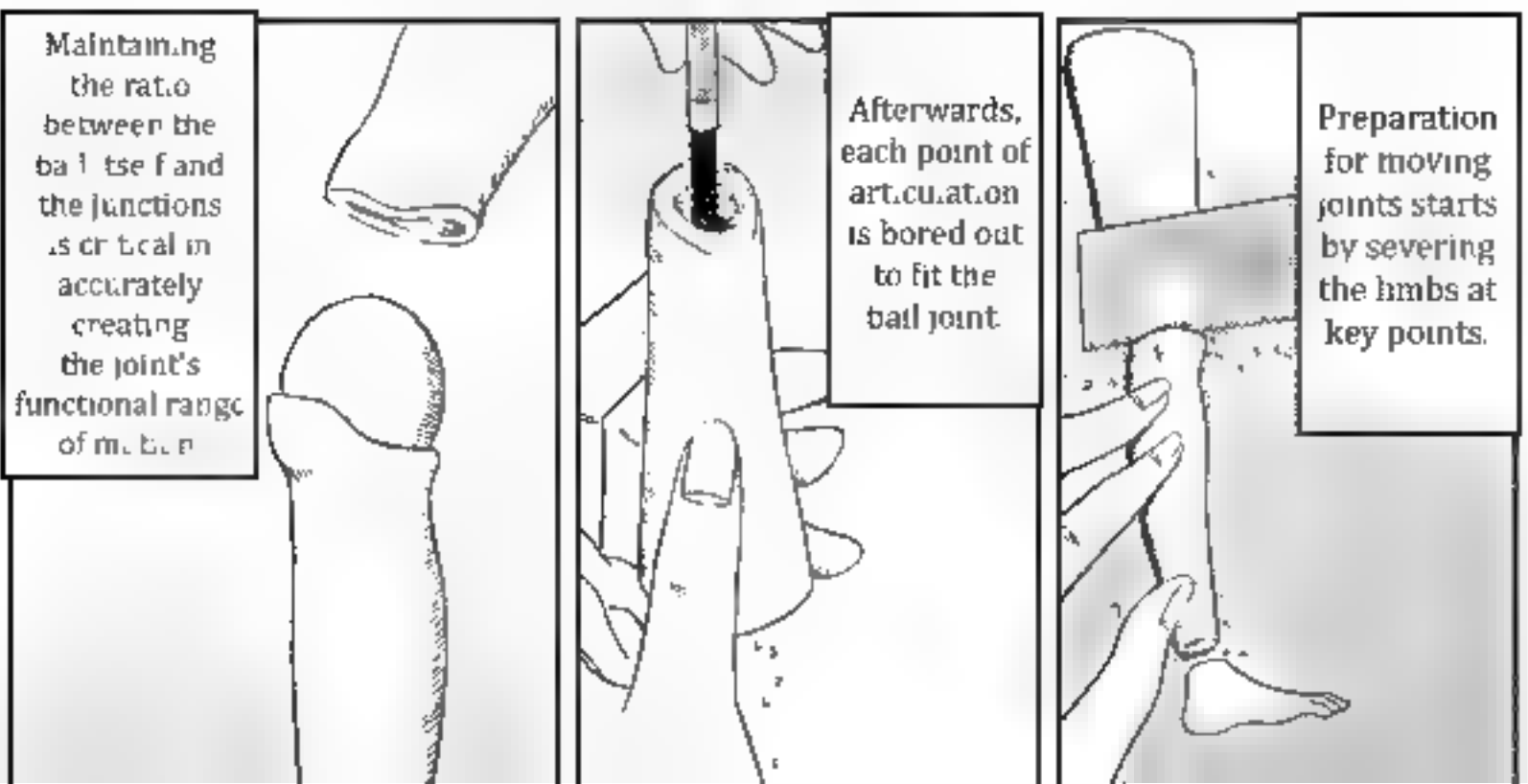
6月

29

6月

30

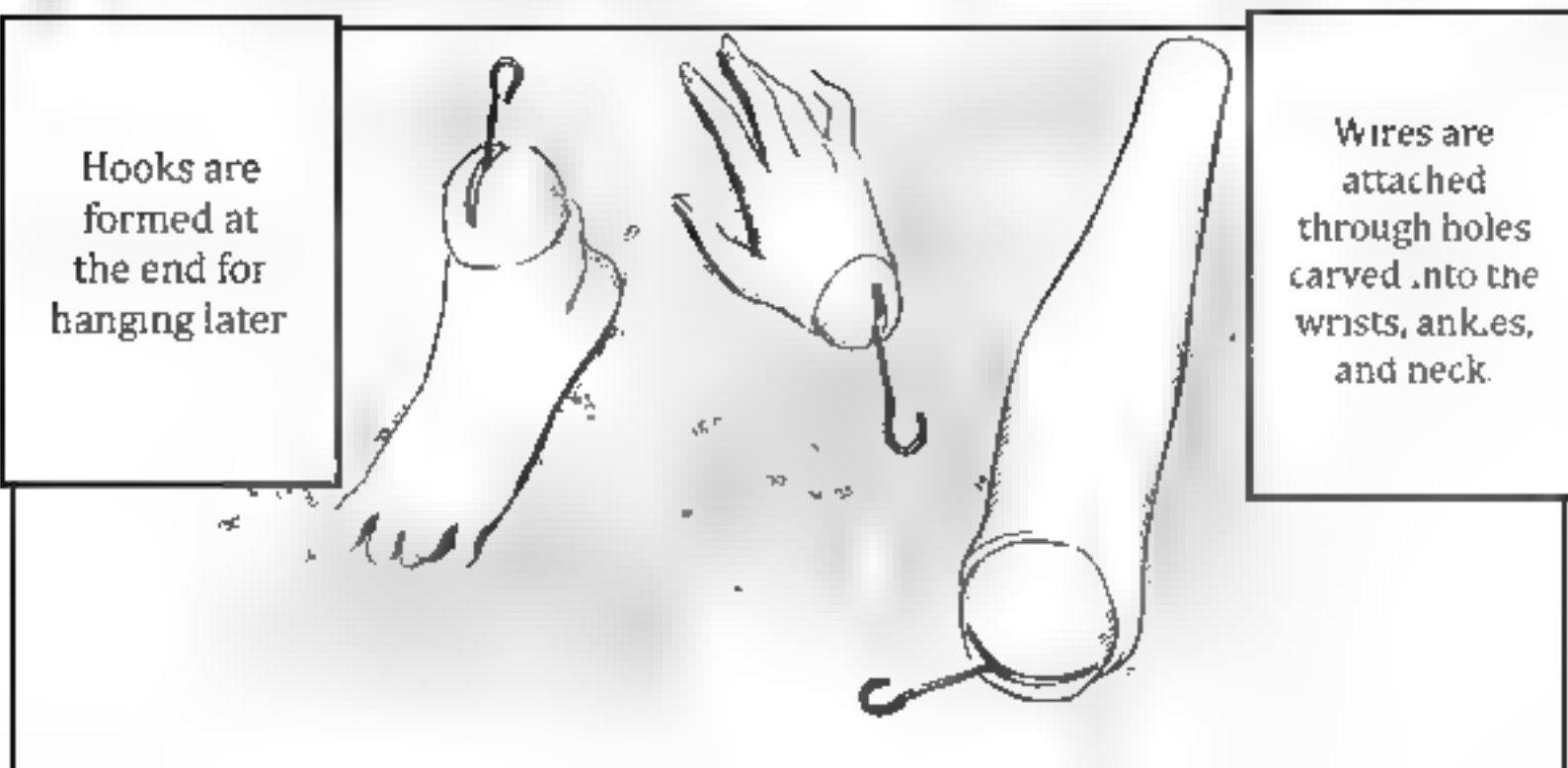
Finger
joints are held
in place by
reinforcing
the clay with
wires

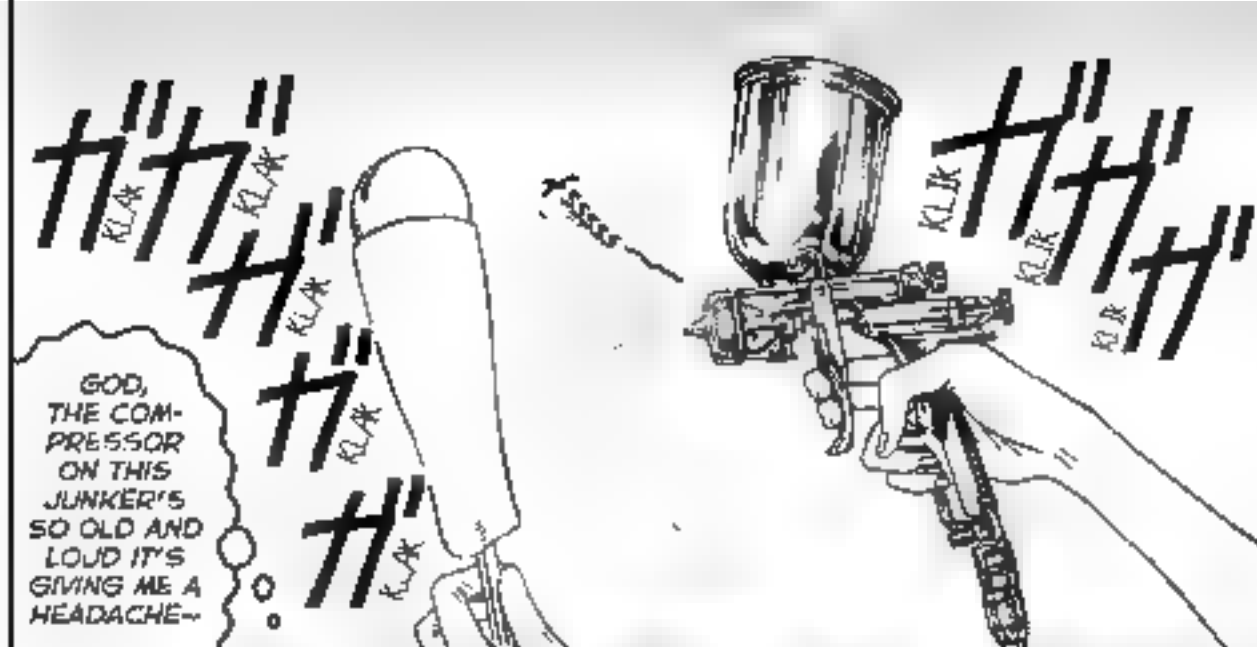


Maintaining
the ratio
between the
ball base and
the junctions
is critical in
accurately
creating
the joint's
functional range
of motion

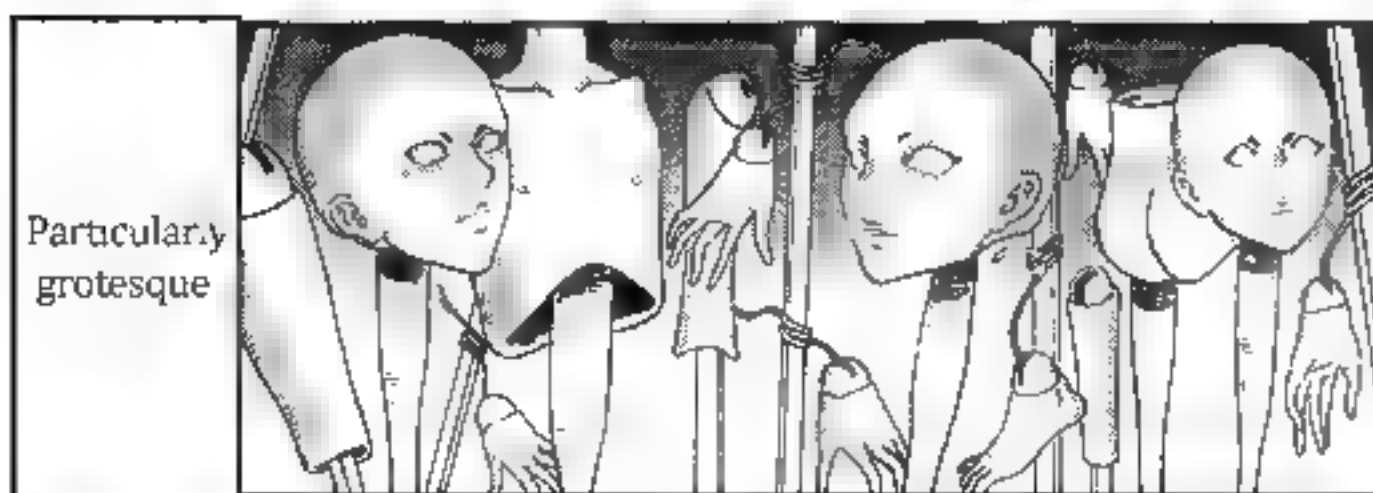
Afterwards,
each point of
articulation
is bored out
to fit the
ball joint

Preparation
for moving
joints starts
by severing
the limbs at
key points.





Airbrushes are preferred to evenly apply an undercoating to the parts individually.



Particularly grotesque

Tying and mounting the parts to dry is...



LISTINGS FOR 70,000 YEN ARE WAY TOO CRAMPED FOR DOLL-MAKING.

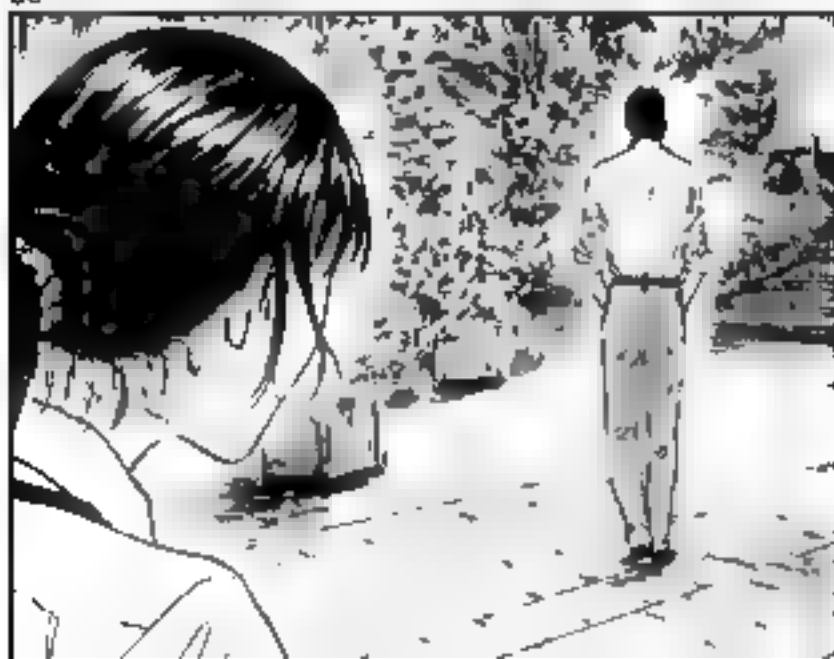
IT'S HOPELESS~



MOVING INTO A PLACE WITH A BATH IS TOP PRIORITY!!

I'VE HAD IT!

DAMP-CLOTH BATHS. AM I FROM THE EDO PERIOD!?





I
COULDN'T
RESIST
THE 30
YEN PER
STALK
PRICE
TAG...

NO WAY
HE DIDN'T
NOTICE
THIS
PALTRY
"CELERY
SALAD"
LUNCH!!

UWAA-
AHHH~
I'VE
BEEN
EXPOSED!!

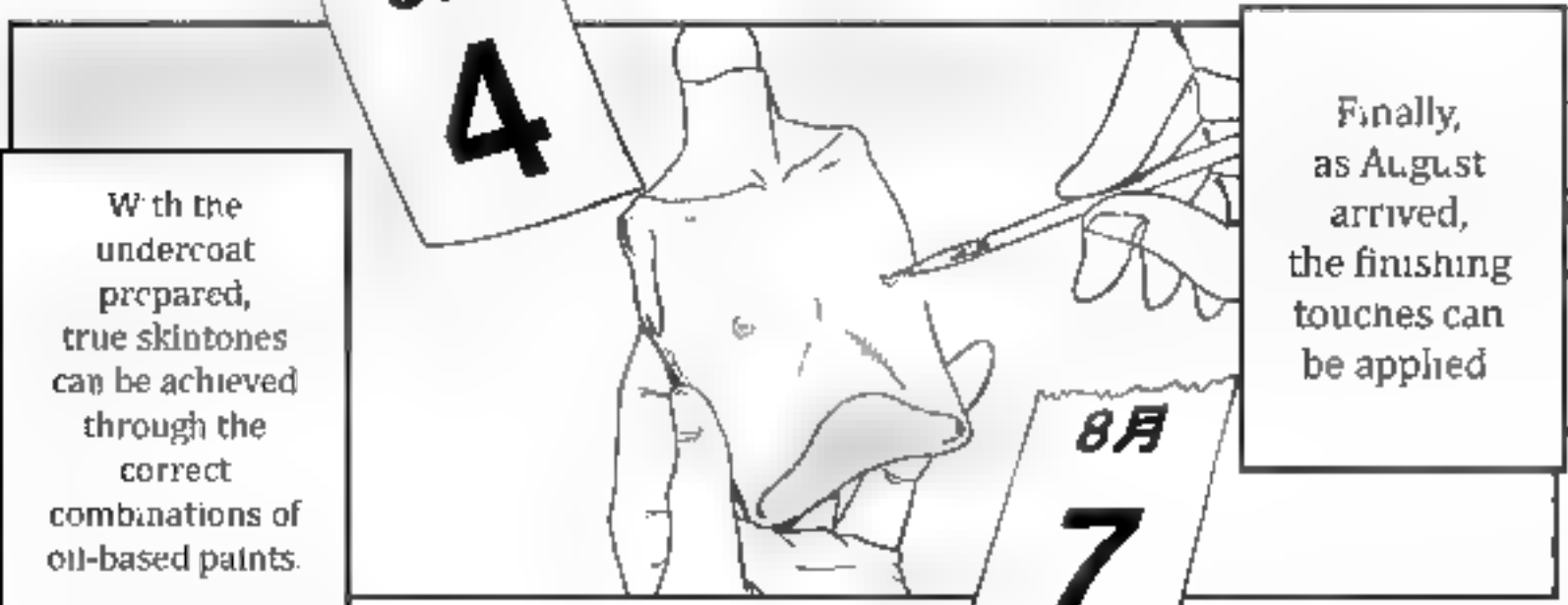
51



munch
munch
munch

OH,
I'M SO
GRATE-
FUL~

WHATEVER!
THANK
YOUUUU~



With the
undercoat
prepared,
true skintones
can be achieved
through the
correct
combinations of
oil-based paints.

Finally,
as August
arrived,
the finishing
touches can
be applied

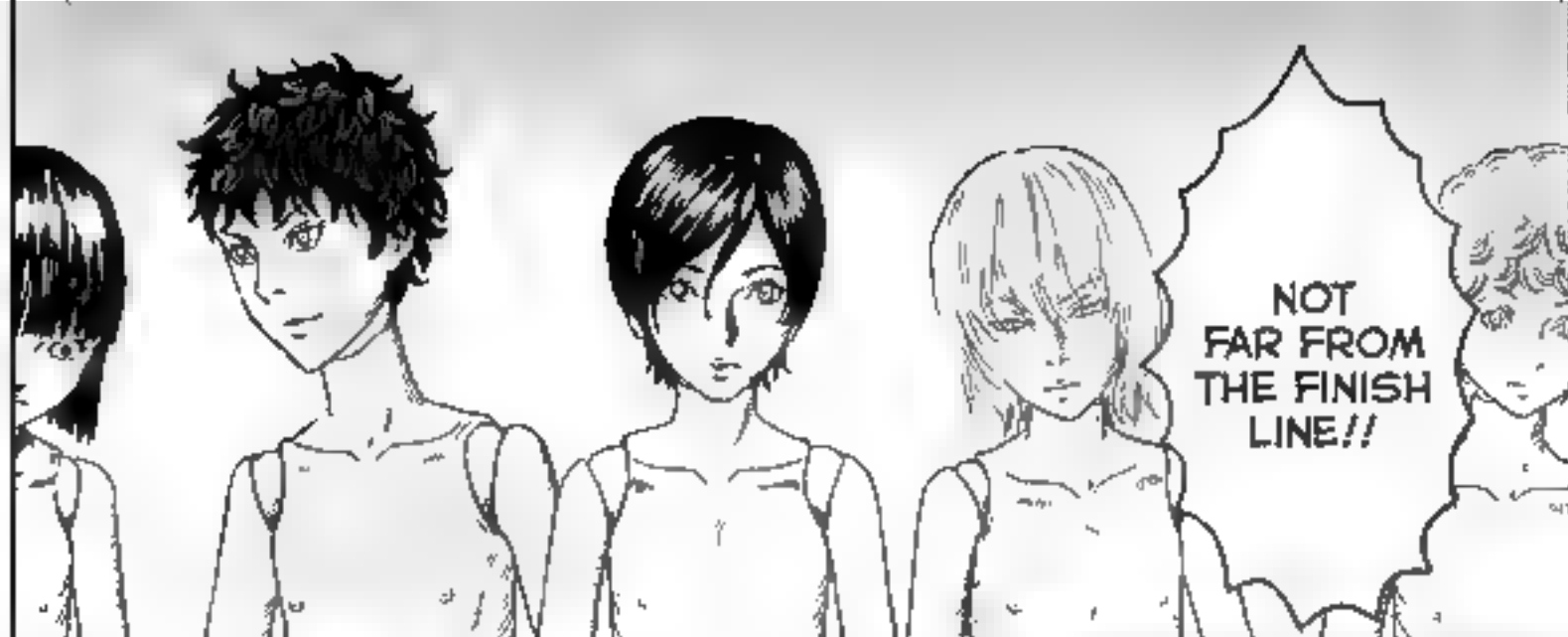


OH
MAN,
OCHI-
MUSHA
STYLE.

Adhesives
are used to
fix hair in a
fashion so that
it may be
groomed or
styled as
needed.



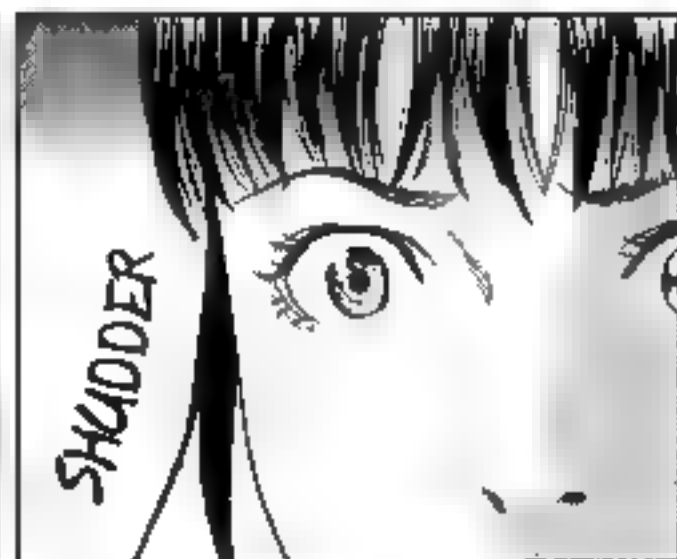
Ultra
fine-tipped
brushes allow
eyebrow styling
and minute
creases in the
lips to become
prominent



NOT
FAR FROM
THE FINISH
LINE!!



IT
SOME-
HOW...
FEELS
LIKE OUR
EYES ARE
LOCKED...



SHUDDER



HE'S
BRIMMING
WITH
LIFE...

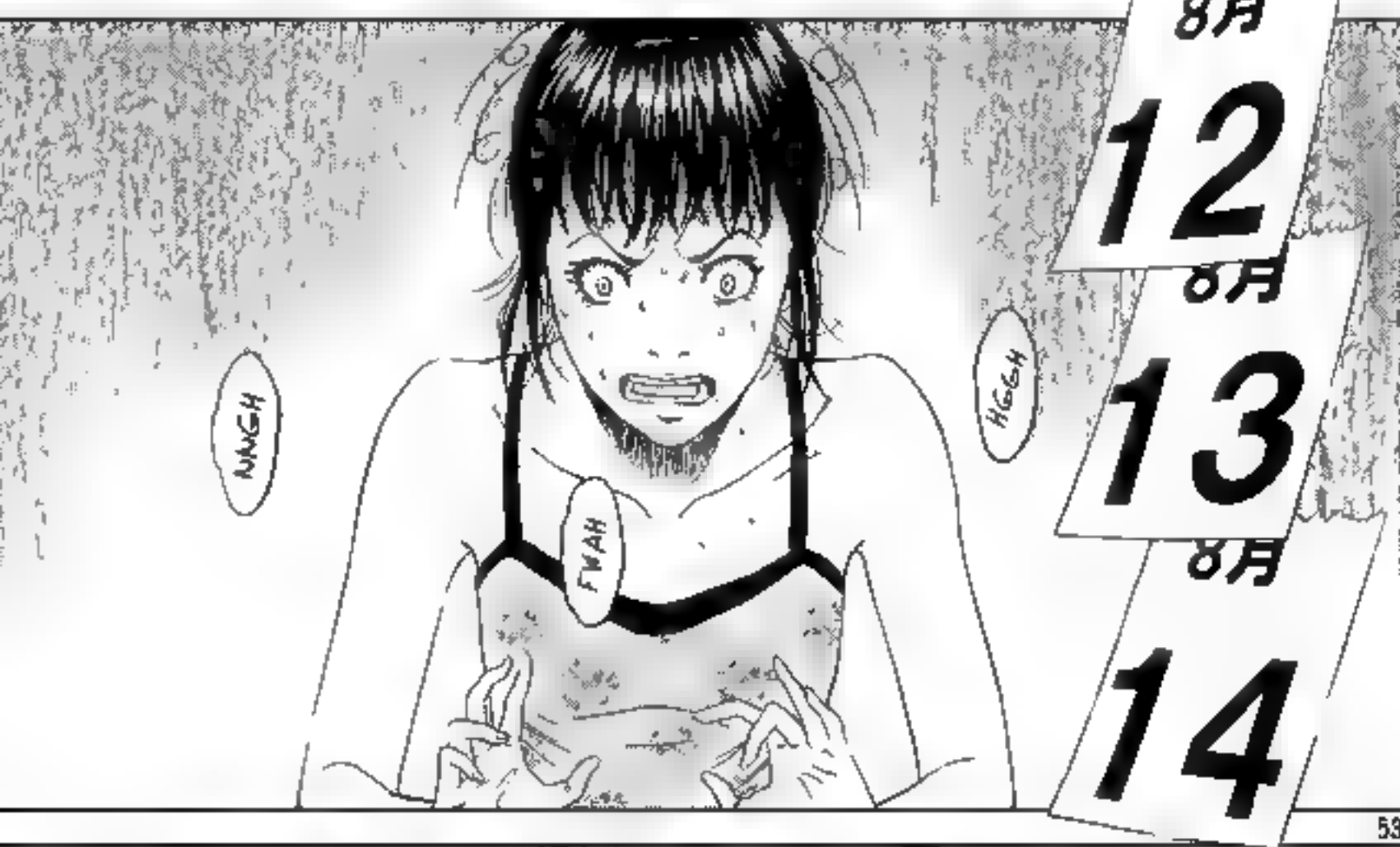
DOESN'T
FEEL LIKE
THEY'RE MY
HANDIWORK
AT ALL...

52



ONLY
THREE DAYS
LEFT!

CHILL OUT,
AMANE! NOT
THE TIME TO
FALL FOR THE
WILY CHARMS
OF YOUR
DOLLS!





54



NOTE BOOK

Specially Prepared in Tokyo

A NECKLACE
WITH THIS AS
A MOTIF
WOULD MAKE
A GLORIOUS
ACCESSORY!

アマネギルナジカル

by AMANE・M

YES,
THIS CROSS
EMBLEM IS
PERFECT.

JUST
IN TIME,
HERE
COMES MY
SECOND
WIND!

HAVEN'T
SLEPT N
OVER 48
HOURS,
BUT
SCREW IT.
SLEEP IS
FOR THE
WEAK!

HE
HE
HE

THE
TRUE
CREATOR
OF THIS
GYMNASI-
UM!

MAKE NO
MISTAKE.
THIS
FEMALE
MUST
HAVE
BEEN
ME!

ACTUALLY,
I'M NOT
SURE,
BUT HEY
LET'S ROLL
WITH IT!

55

HERE I
PROCLAIM
MYSELF GOD
OF THE NEW
WORLD!!

WAHA
HAHAHA

GOD
OF
THESE
SEVEN
BOYS!

OMNI-
POTENCE
FLOWS
THROUGH
ME!!

YES,
I AM GOD
MYSELF!



WE
WERE
STARTING
TO GET
SCARED,
YOU'RE
SO LATE.

MIYA-
KATA?

I
DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
HOW I
MADE IT
HERE.

The next day.

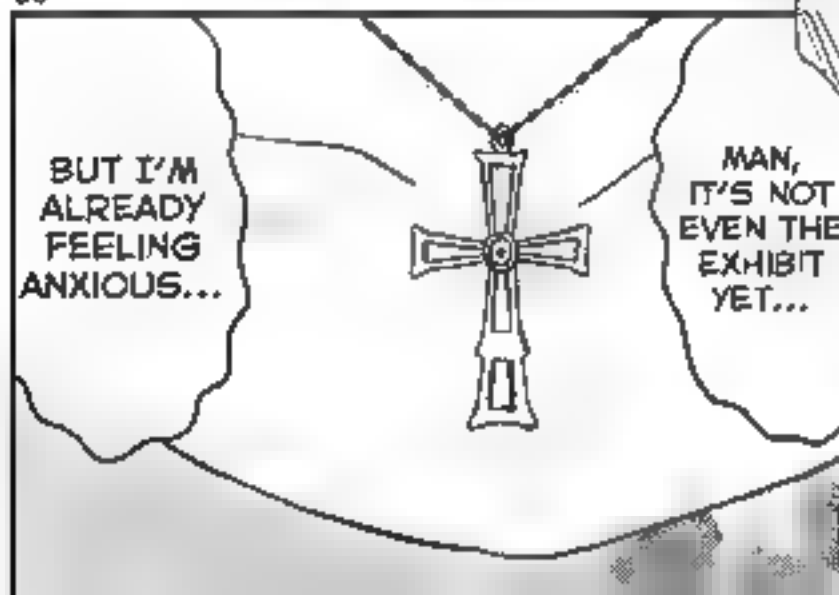
ヴァギラ画廊
Vagila Gallery



SORRY
'BOUT
THAT~

BLAME
THIS
NECKLACE.
BECAUSE
OF THIS
THING,
I DIDN'T
WAKE UP
ON TIME...

56



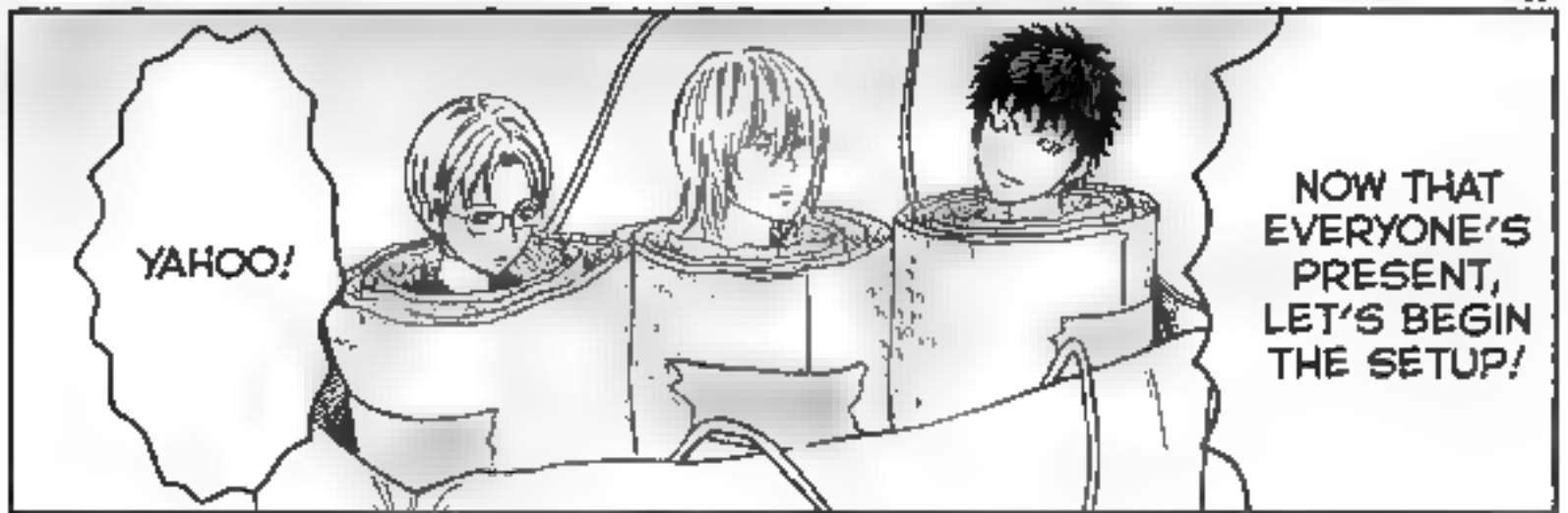
BUT I'M
ALREADY
FEELING
ANXIOUS...

MAN,
IT'S NOT
EVEN THE
EXHIBIT
YET...





57



At long last,
the opening
day of the
exhibition
arrived.



Fortunately,
the ladies from
Vagula Gallery
came through
and supplied
miniature
wooden desks
and seats.





60





OF
COURSE
NOT.

EVERYBODY
AT WORK
WOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO
COMPREHEND
THE ARTISTIC
VALUE OF YOUR
PASSION. ONE
GLANCE AND
THEY'D START
THINKING YOU'VE
BEEN RAISED
BY ALIENS OR
SOMETHING.



NOBODY
FROM
WORK
KNOWS,
RIGHT...?

S-SASAI,
PLEASE BE
HONEST.



OOPS.

I WASN'T
TRYING TO
HURT YOUR
FEELINGS.



ONCE
AN ALIEN,
ALWAYS AN
ALIEN..

ALIENS...

SURE,
THEY USED
TO SAY
THAT BACK
IN ELEMENTA-
RY SCHOOL,
BUT I'M 27
NOW...

61



FORGET
ABOUT THEM,
I ADORE
YOUR
WONDERFUL
ART!

SERIOUSLY,
THEY'RE
JUST LIKE
REAL KIDS.



To me
they are
genuine living,
breathing
children!

Indeed.



EH?

YOU
REALLY
LOOK
LOVELY
TODAY.

BY THE
WAY,
MIYAKATA.



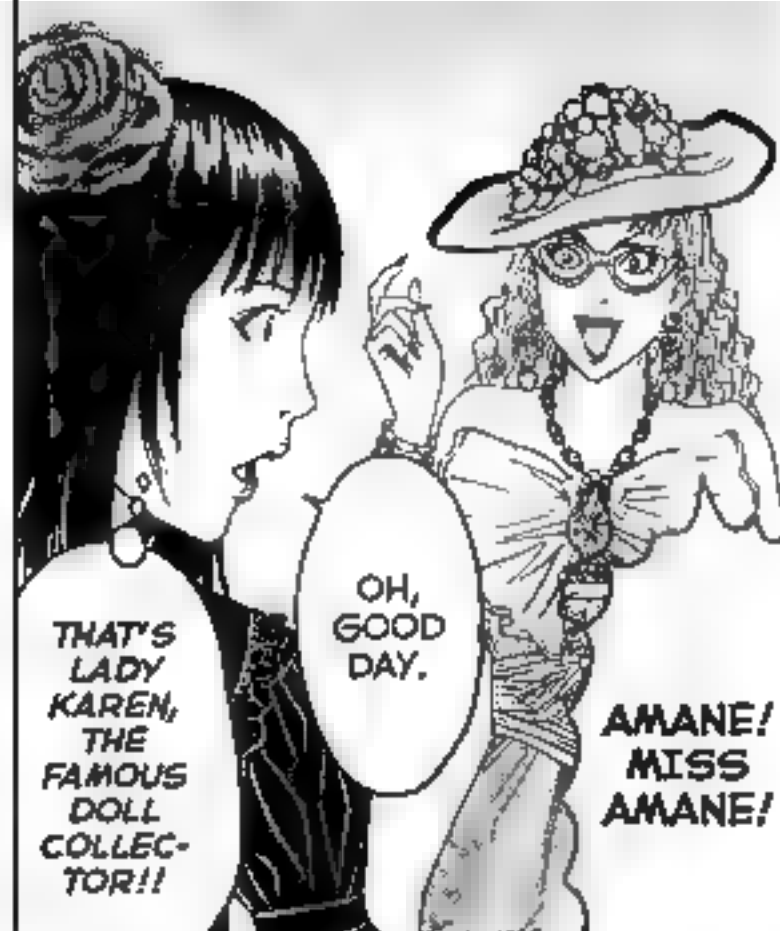
IT'S
CLEARLY
BETTER
TO LOOK AT
SOMETHING
NICER.

SURELY
YOU'RE
MISTAKEN/
HOW COULD
YOU IGNORE MY
IMPOVERISHED
FACE?



YOU
REALLY DO
PIQUE MY
INTEREST!

HAHA!



63





ANOTHER
DOLL
EXHIBITION
UNDER THE
BELT...

SURE,
IT'S OVER
AND DONE
WITH.

YET.



Two weeks later



I'M
FRIGGIN'
PISSED AT
MYSELF FOR
REFUSING
THAT
OFFER!!

WAY TO
FLUSH AWAY
A GOLDEN
OPPOR-
TUNITY~



65

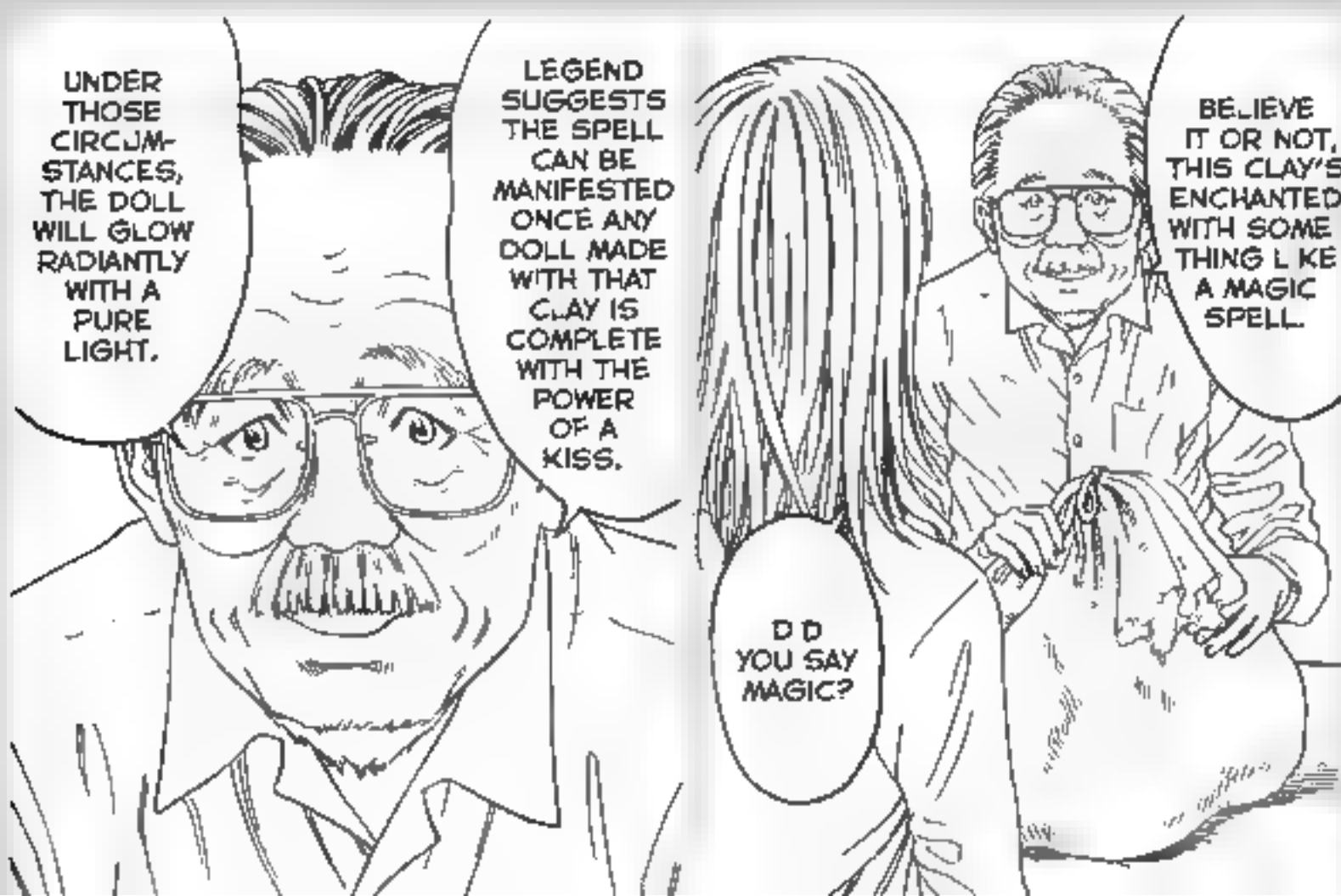




66

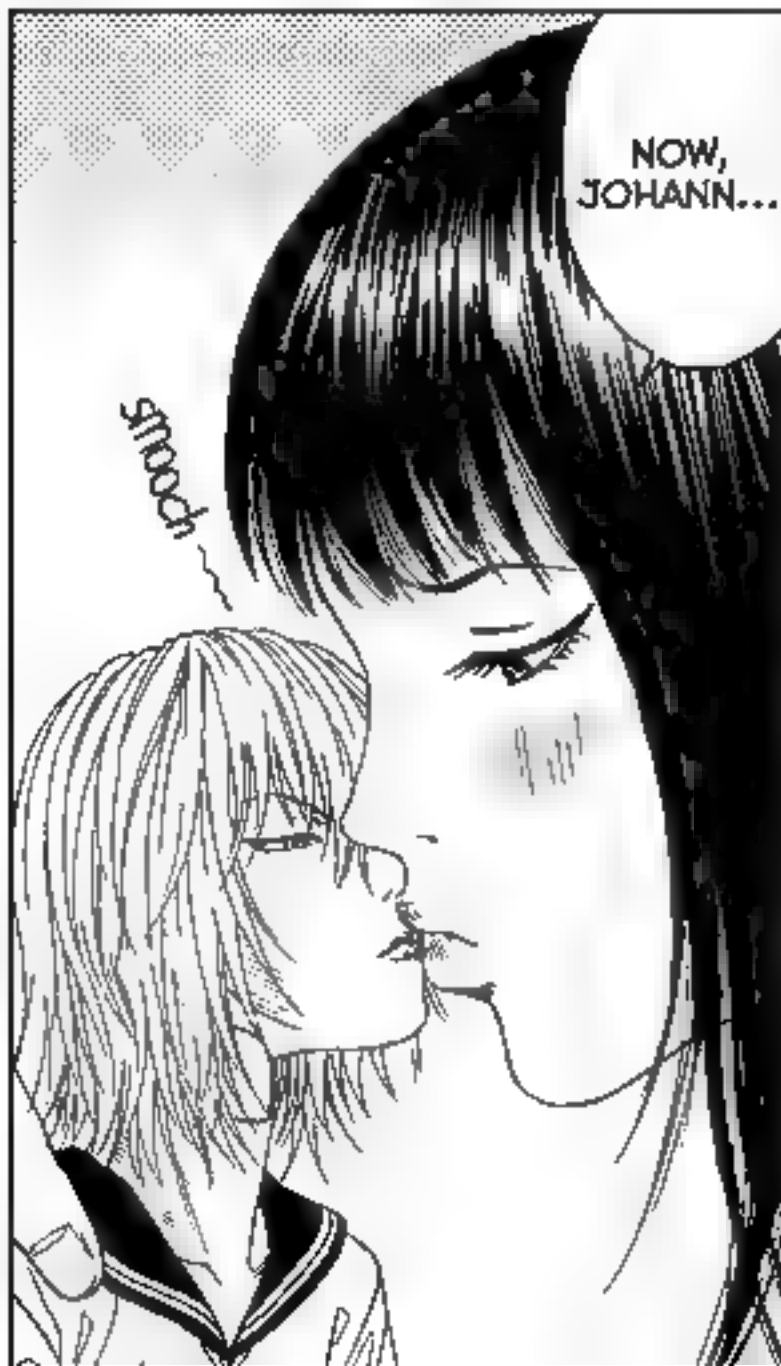


Now, allow me to pass on the secret of this aged clay.



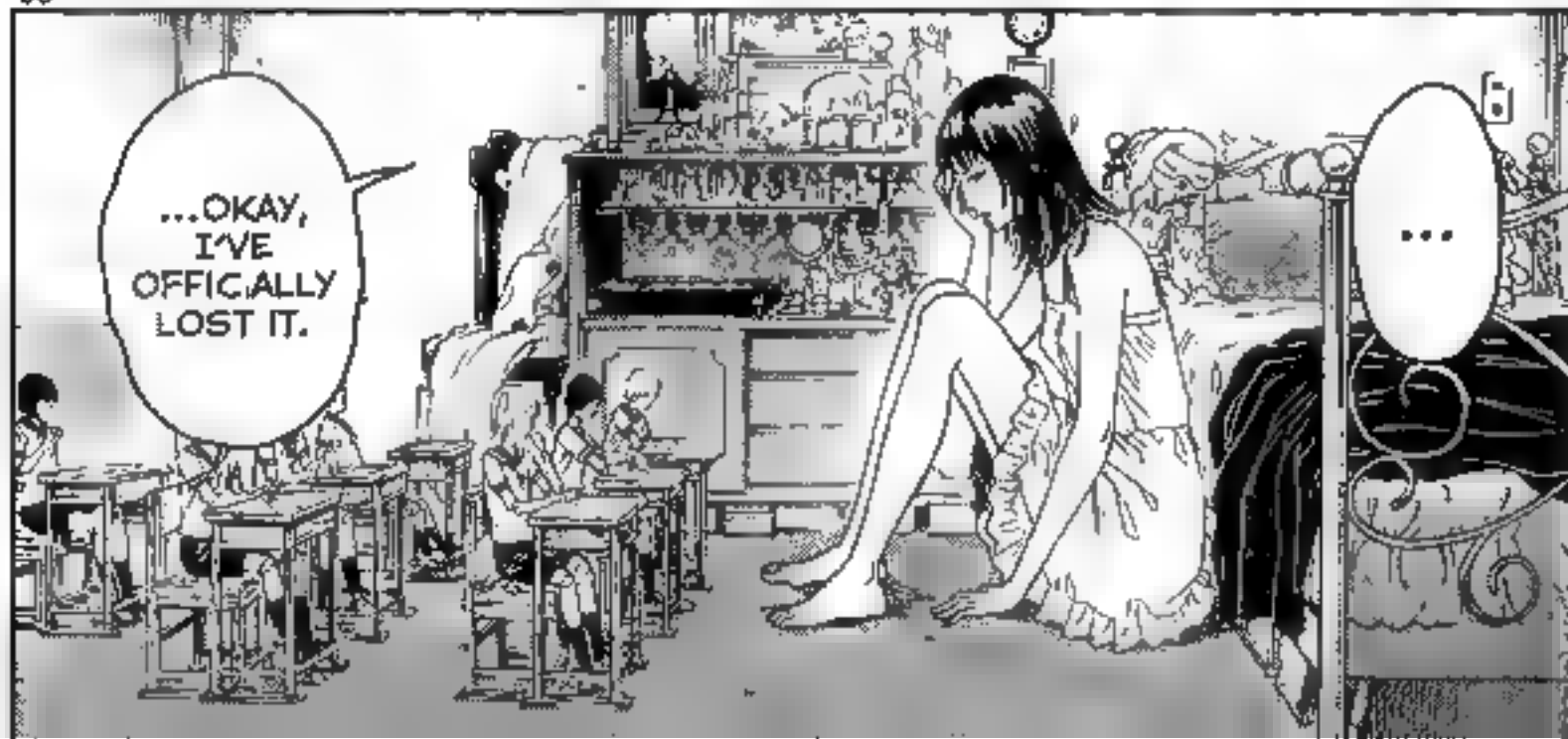


67





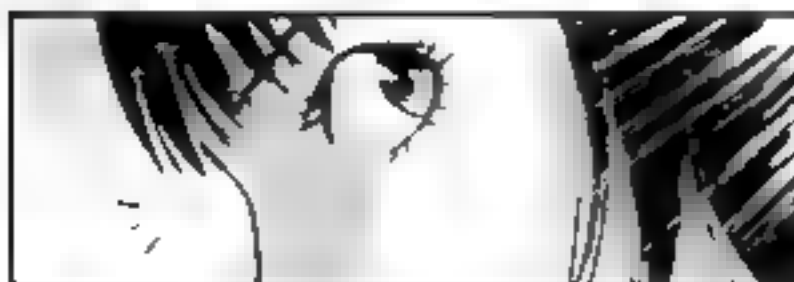
68





TOKU
WAS JUST
PULLING
MY LEG!!

OH,
NOW I
GET IT.



SHOULD
HIT THE
HAY,
ANYWAYS.

GOTTA
WORK
TOMOR-
ROW...



DID I
LEAVE
A LIGHT
ON?

HUH?



Sneak



THIS IS
FREAKING
ME OUT...

H-
HELLO
...?

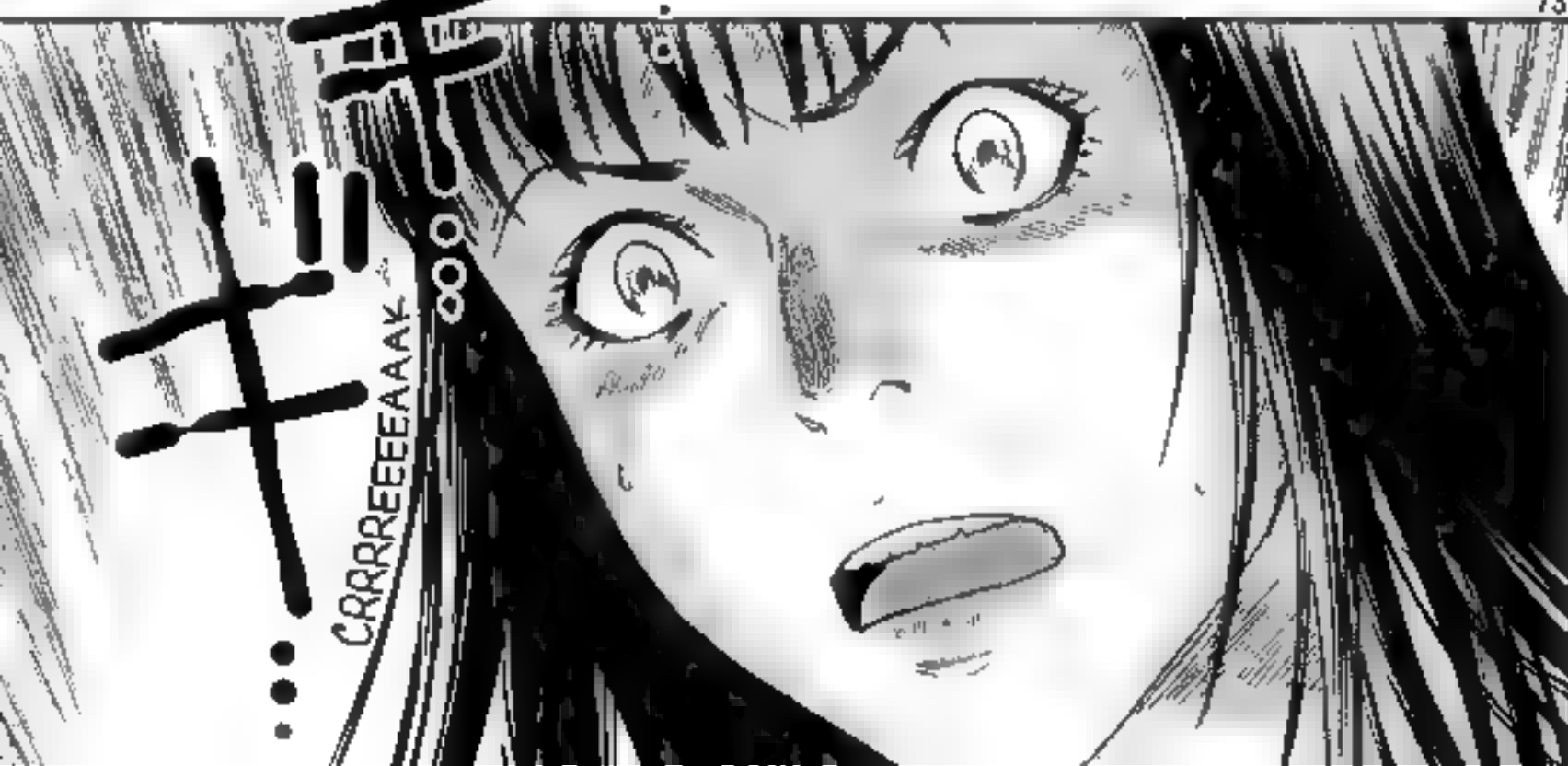
WHAT'S
GOING
ON. ?





72







The doors to her gymnasium have burst wide open!!!



76



Translator's†Notes

Page 4

- Vagilla Gallery is based on a real location called Vanilla Gallery that has previously hosted exhibitions of Furuya Usamaru's illustrations and paintings.
- Freaks Pierrot is likely a nod to fellow Vagilla Gallery artist Freaks Circus.

Page 6

- Hinomaru bento is a Japanese staple food consisting of nothing but white rice with a dried red pickled plum on top. The name hinomaru comes from the fact that the red plum on top of the white rice resembles the Japanese flag, also called the hinomaru, which itself is a representation of the sun)

Page 13

- Tomioka Hachiman shrine is the largest shrine in Japan dedicated to the Shinto tutelary god of warriors and divine protector of Japan, Hachiman. Hachiman's name refers to the eight divine banners that signalled the birth of Emperor Oujin.

Page 19

- A gymnasium is a traditional part of the German educational system. The closest equivalents are British grammar schools or American prep schools. Generally, Gymnasium students spend 8-9 years preparing for university. Students are usually admitted at the ages of 10 or 13 following 4-6 years of primary education.
- The Fabulous Year 24 Group, otherwise known as the Forty-Niners, were a group of ten different shoujo manga artists all born in the 24th Year of the Showa Era (1949). Prior to their work, shoujo manga had little variation and rarely broke new boundaries in genre or content. During their prime, shoujo manga finally made the jump from primarily monthly to

Page 39

- Styrene is an oil isolated from American sweetgum tree resin. It can also be synthesized from various chemical compounds. When exposed to light or heat, it will slowly harden into a rubbery substance called polystyrene. Don't ever get it in your eyes or you will likely be blinded. Styrene has also been investigated heavily as a potential carcinogenic agent.
- A weird Japanese real estate law. Key deposits are one-time payments to the landlord generally equivalent to 1-3 months worth of rent prior to being accepted as a tenant. This money is never returned to the tenant after their lease expires or is cancelled. Some paranoid or greedy landlords can legally charge 6 or more months worth of rent as the key deposit. Certain regions of Japan will even have a stipulation in the tenant agreement that the equivalent of the key deposit is charged again upon lease/contract renewal. Thankfully, in recent years, landlords and real estate agencies have begun offering key deposit-free rental properties.

Translator's†Notes

Page 49

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Page 51

- An Ochimusha was an extremely low class of Japanese citizen that was mainly present during the Sengoku period of Japanese history. Dishonorable samurai that fled the battlefield rather than face execution or commit seppuku would have the crown of their head shaved while the remainder is left long and loose as a marker of their low status. Additionally, the signature chonmage topknot may remain intact in a diminished form. Other methods of descending into the status of an Ochimusha include samurai and aristocrats that were uprooted and relieved by civilian rioting. Exiled criminals of Japan were sometimes treated as Ochimusha.

Page 57

- Trevor Black is a clear nod to paraphilia artist Trevor Brown.

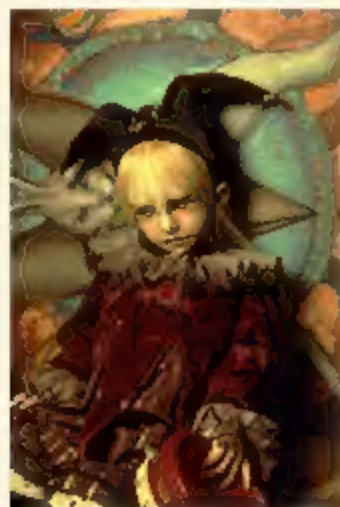
On Ball Jointed Dolls

The dolls featured in Amane†Gymnasium are one of a kind creations inspired by 19th century European bisque dolls, traditional Japanese dolls, and the modern Japanese art doll movement. The current generation of Japanese doll artists feature an erotic-grotesque aesthetic, with many creations being in various states of undress and in a languid, sensual repose. In case you were wondering, ball jointed dolls are usually anatomically correct. Artists hold gallery shows and produce photobooks of their work. Prominent artists include Amano Katan, Etsuko Miura, Mori Kaoru, Ayumi, Mayuka, Shimizu Mari, and Yotsuya Shimon.

Amane's creations are a bit of an oddity in the art doll world as the majority are female. Male dolls are much more common in the commercial BJD market and it is likely the inspiration for Amane†Gymnasium was derived from there as well.



Mori Kaoru



Amano Katan

Mr. Furuya himself owns (or has owned) at least one ball jointed doll, a Volks SD17 Reissner. While we previously thought he only had it for art reference, the doll can be seen in a non-standard wig. Additionally, Mr. Furuya has clearly done his research into the ball jointed and art doll worlds, as Amane is a fairly accurate representation of a doll aficionado.



Furuya's SD17 Reissner